N.E.Y Meeting
Men Minutes
~~Women~~
1845 – 1889
~~EARLY~~ MEETING OF ~~FRIENDS~~
N.E. ~~FOR NEW ENGLAND~~ Y.M.

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N. E. Yearly Mtg
Men
~~Women~~
Minutes

1845 - 1889

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND

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At our yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England held on Rhode Island; beginning with Public Meetings for Worship both at Newport and Portsmouth on First day the 15th of 6th month 1845; and at Newport on Second day morning the 16th for Discipline.

Having assembled under circumstances very peculiar and painful, it has appeared to us important briefly to set forth and to place upon our records, some of those causes which produced a division in Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting and its subordinate branches, during the past year; and which resulted in a fearful schism in the early part of this Yearly Meeting, whereby we have been deprived not only of the Reports from all our Quarterly Meetings (except one) but also of the Books and Papers of the Yearly Meeting, including the minutes made during our first sitting.

For several years past many of the most prominent and influential members of this Yearly meeting, who had formerly appeared to be in good measure established in the Truth, but who, for want of an humble abidance therein, which would have preserved them out of all error, have fallen from that state and standing which they once knew, and have manifested a sorrowful disposition to lower the Standard of our Christian profession, by introducing and conniving at the introduction of Doctrines, principles and practices at variance with, and subversive of those which have ever distinguished us as a People, as set forth in the Standard writings of our Early Friends particularly in Robert Barclays "Apology for the True Christian Divinity," which has been fully approved and adopted, not only by this Meeting, but by the Society at large.

In order the more easily to effect a change in our well known Principles, corresponding with that which had taken place in themselves, they have not hesitated to lay waste the good order and Discipline of the Church, making

making use of the station and influence which they had improperly retained in the Society, and of a profession of great concern for the maintenance of its order, to conceal their secret defection in principle, and to gloss over their proceedings; which were designed to "hurt and destroy" those who could not be induced to unite with them in removing "the Ancient land=-marks" of our Christian Profession, or to refrain from bearing testimony to the Truth as always held and supported by Friends, and as enjoined by our Discipline.

Seeming to depend very much upon their numerical strength, many and various have been the artifices to which they have resorted to increase and perpetuate their own power and numbers. They have been unwearied in raising and spreading unfounded prejudices and evil reports, against those Friends (both at home and abroad) who firmly opposed these innovations, some of whom in this way, they succeeded in laying under dealing and disowning. And in order to effect this purpose they have very improperly interfered with the administration of the Discipline in different Monthly Meetings;- in one instance dissolving a monthly Meeting in a manner plainly contrary to the express provisions of the Discipline, and in another, causing a Seperation, and setting up a spurious Monthly Meeting.

Thus the most impotant rights of individuals and of meetings have been disregarded, whenever the testimonies of the one, or the conclusions of the other, have stood in their way. And when ~~ever~~ their proceedings with respect to these, have been brought up for inves=-tigation, by appeal to the Yearly Meeting, the undue influence and power which they had attained ~~as~~ well as the declension of many with them into outward, litteral views and interpretations of Scripture, has enabled them to sustain themselves by an apparent majority of numbers.

Many of these prominent and influential men

who

who as a Standing Committee of the Yearly Meeting have been for a long time engaged in efforts to suppress all expression of dissatisfaction with the New Doctrines sought to be introduced amongst us, were actively engaged in effecting the seperation in Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, and in sustaining the spurious Quarterly Meeting there.

At the first sitting of the Yearly Meeting the report from the said spurious Quarterly Meeting was read, together with those from the other Quarters, and the representatives names entered upon the minutes. The report from the genuine Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting was afterwards read and minuted as pur=
=porting to come from that meeting, and the represent=
=atives names recorded — whereupon a member of the Standing Committee proposed a reference of the subject to the representatives from all the Quarterly Meetings except Rhode Island, for them to report which of the two meetings and sets of representatives, should be acknowledged by the Yearly Meeting. —

The representatives from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting objected to this proposition, upon the ground that several of the representatives from the different Quarters were members of the Standing Committee, already implicated in the Seperation within their limits, and in the support of the unsound Doctrines and disorderly practices before alluded to; — and moreover, that unfair and proscriptive measures had been resorted to in the appointment of some of the representatives, with a special view to the existing controversy among us. In one Quarterly Meeting all who were suspected of being opposed to the previous proceedings within this Yearly Meet=
=ing, were excluded from appointment as representa=
belonging to that Quarter
=tives, and the members of one Monthly Meeting were wholly excluded, both from being appointed and from nominating others for representatives. At another Quarterly Meeting, members of the Standing Com=
= mittee

Committee attended, and advised against the appoint=
=ment of such as had not unity with their proceedings.

The repeated and fruitless efforts heretofore made to obtain justice through the intervention of Committees of the Yearly Meeting was fully brought to view. Allusion was also made to the evidence abundantly afforded, that such Committees, appointed in the par=
=tial and unfair manner they ever have been, in cases involving the conduct of the Standing Com=
=mittee, are always greatly under the control of a few influential individuals, mostly members of that Committee. And it was further declared that the sufferings of faithful Friends in their endeavours to stand for the precious Cause of Truth, were mainly to be attributed to the proceedings of that Committee and that the said difficulties by which this Yearly Meeting is now encompassed, lie at their door. The representatives from Rhode Island Quarterly Meet=
=ing proposed that the matter should be investi=
=gated and decided by the Yearly Meeting with=
=out reference to a Committee, that all might have a fair opportunity to hear and judge for themselves.

There was much expression in favour of this pro=
=posal by Friends from different Quarterly Meet=
=ings; but many continued to urge the reference to the representatives. Those from Rhode Island inform=
=ed the Yearly Meeting that they could not consent to such a disposition of the case for the reasons which had been given. The Clerk notwithstanding made a minute giving it that direction, and being about to communicate the information to the women's meeting, the messengers were requested to inform them that this conclusion was without the consent and against the judgment of the representatives from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting. On their return being enquired of whether they had done so, they made no reply. The Meeting was then requested to instruct the representatives to give such information

to

to the women, but a few voices were raised against it, and it was not done.

It was now proposed by Abraham Shearman Jr the acting Clerk, to suspend that rule of our Discipline which requires "the representatives to meet at the conclusion of the sitting on second day morning and agree upon a Clerk for the year and report the same to the adjournment." A minute was made to this effect, although objected to on the part of the repre=sentatives from Rhode Island, and no time being specified, it was thus left in the discretion of the rep=resentatives when they would attend to the service. The meting soon after adjourned to the Fourth hour on second day afternoon.

Previous to the adjournment, one of the representatives from Rhode Island distinctly proposed and requested that Friends of that Quarterly Meeting, and such others as might be disposed to join them therein, should take a solid opportunity of conferring together in that house, at the conclusion of that sitting, in order that they (the representatives) might be further ascertained of the sense and judgment of Friends, whether they should appear before the representatives from the different Quart=erly Meetings, and defend the case which had been referred to them in the manner above stated; and if not, to endeavour to see what steps it might seem proper in the wisdom of Truth for them to take under this very peculiar and trying state of things. This request was extended to all who desired to maintain the an=cient principles of Friends, and that the Yearly Meeting should be sustained and held upon its original foundation. No objection was made to it; but the Clerk said the representatives would meet in that room on the case referred to them from Rhode Island. whereupon another of that party who afterwards seceded, signified that we might meet in the Committee room.

At the conclusion many Friends accordingly remained in the house, but finding it impossible to confer together there;

there, fruly and without interruption from others, they agreed upon another time and place of meeting, and then quietly withdrew.

Friends were introduced into deep exercise and travail of spirit, wherein living desires were raised in the hearts of many for best Help and direction, and when they again assembled free from interuption, under an awful sense of the importance of moving only in the line of Divine appointment, they were united in judgment that it would not be right to appear with their case, before the representatives who were then sitting in our meeting house — and who were immediately informed of this conclusion. It was also the united sense and judgment of Friends, that in order to sustain the Yearly Meeting in conformity with its long-estab=lished Discipline, and upon its original ground, with the ancient Doctrines and Testimonies of the Society unimpaired, it was indispensible that the represent=atives should meet, and agree upon and propose a Clerk to the next sitting, as by Discipline and former usage is required. —

Second day afternoon.—Friends met, according to adjournment.

Prince Gardner on behalf of the representatives from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting and some of those from Sandwich Quarter, reported that they had been together and were united in proposing the name of Thomas B. Gould for Clerk of this meeting for the year ensuing — and of Charles Perry for Assistant Clerk for the same term; — This subject having claimed the attention of the representatives since our sitting this morning in conformity with the requisitions of our Dis=cipline: and the nominations being fully united with by those who have been for some years labouring under much oppression for the support of the order and dis=cipline, and of the Testimonies and Doctrines of our Religious Society upon their Original Foundation; — they were accordingly appointed. —

The

The account from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting of Friends, was at this time received and read. The repre=sentatives therein named, are, Othniel Foster, Oliver Chace, John Mitchell, Thomas B. Gould, Nathan Buffinton John F. Kenyon, Samuel Sheffield, Harvey Chace and Charles Perry: whose names being called they were all present and responded thereto.

Our Friends Amos C. Wilbur, Prince Gardner, Isaac Fisk, George F. Read, Harvey Chace, William B. Oliver, and Ethan Foster are appointed to prepare, as way may open for it, and produce at a future sitting a more extended minute, to be entered on our Records, embrac=ing the very trying circumstances under which we are now and have been for some time placed, together with the ground and cause thereof.

In consequence of the repeated interuptions which we have met with - it has not appeared proper to intro=duce any further business at this sitting; - we have accordingly concluded to adjourn. -

Adjourned to meet again at this house at the Tenth hour to morrow morning.

Third day morning, the 17th. Friends assembled according to adjournment.

The representatives named in the account from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting being called they were all present and answered to their names.

Finding our Meeting house in Newport already oc=cupied by those who have seperated themselves from our religious communion - we concluded to appoint our Friends Prince Gardner, Benjamin Tucker and Ethan Foster to make application to those now occupying the house for the vacation of the Clerks table for the use of those who were yesterday appointed Clerks of the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, as well as to transfer the Books and Records of this meeting; and the Clerk is directed to furnish them with a copy of this minute and sign it on our behalf. —

The.

The Committee for the purpose having made the application reported, That, they were civilly received; but that after some expression by those assembled in the house, the person now occupying the Table therein, de=cided against those requests unconditionally. And being thus deprived of the Accounts from all our Quarterly meetings (except Rhode Island) we have no other means of ascertaining the representatives therefrom who are now present, than by their ~~acknowledgment~~ acknowledgment and our own recollection of those named in the accounts which we heard read yesterday morning: And our Friends Jonathan Nichols of Salem, and Prince Gardner, Job Eddy and Benjamin Tucker of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting having severally acknowledged themselves to be such, their acknowledgement was received and their names directed to be recorded as Representatives to this meeting. —

Having in consequence of the occupancy of our meet=ing house as aforesaid, been standing, and our Women Friends also, nearly two hours, in the open air in the yard near the meeting house; we have concluded to adjourn, to meet again immediately at the Baptist meeting house on Clark Street, which has been kindly opened for us; and that this information be commu=nicated by the same Friends as before, to those who are still occupying our meeting house. —

Adjourned accordingly. —

Friends having removed from our own meeting house yard in a body, convened again at the place proposed according to adjournment:

And after sitting for a time together, during which our hearts have been tendered and united under the cementing influence of the Great Head of the Church, who, as we feel bound reverently to acknowledge, has been pleased in His unmerited mercy and in a remarkable manner, to own us in the way which we go — to manifest Himself among us by His Spirit, and to uphold and preserve us by His Power,

amid

amid the varied conflicts which we have had to pass through for His Great Name's sake:— Under feelings of deep sorrow and concern for those who have been drawn aside from the Truth; and of thankfulness to the Lord our Preserver — such has been the solemnity and the precious=ness of the covering in adorable mercy spread over us that it does not appear best to introduce any business at this time; — we have therefore concluded to adjourn to meet again at this house at the Fourth hour this afternoon. —

Afternoon; Friends again met according to adjournment. —

We have received and read at this time the following minute from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, To wit

" Having at this time received information from many
"members of the late South Kingstown Monthly Meeting
"that they feel themselves aggrieved, and the principles
"and Discipline of the Society to have been sorrowfully
"violated in the dissolution of that Monthly Meeting
"by Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting in the Eleventh
"Month 1842, effected as it was by the control and
"influence of those who have since separated them=
"=selves from us; and in the subsequent confirmation
"thereof by the Yearly Meeting; and that they desire the
"restoration of said Monthly Meeting, believing it would
"contribute to the right vindication and establishment
"of the Primitive Christian Doctrines, Discipline and Order
"of our Religious Society; — Upon a consideration of this
"weighty subject, it is the united sense and judgment of
"this Meeting that the Cause of Truth does require that
"the Yearly Meeting should reverse its former decission
"in this case, and restore South Kingstown Monthly Meet=
"=ing with the rights, privileges and obligations belong=
"=ing to it and resting upon it, as it was before its dissolution.
" We therefore affectionately and earnestly request of the
"Yearly Meeting a reconsideration and reversal of its
"judgment in the case." —

And ample time being allowed for a full expression of the views of Friends from the different Quarterly

Meetings

meetings (with the exception of Rhode Island) this meeting is united in the sense and judgment of Rhode Island Quarterly meeting as expressed in their minute; and that Monthly Meeting is accordingly restored to all the rights, privileges and obligations belonging to it and resting upon it, as it was before its dissolution; The womens meeting uniting herein; and the Clerk is directed to furnish Rhode Island Quarterly meeting with a copy of this minute. —

The following minute from Rhode Island Quarterly meeting was received and read, Viz:

"Greenwich Monthly Meeting informs that John "Wilbur has notified them that he intends to apply "to our next Yearly Meeting for a reconsideration of "his case, embracing its decision in confirmation of "the judgment of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting "approving his disownment by that Monthly Meeting "in the First month 1843: — said disownment and judg= "=ment having been effected by those who have since "seperated from us; — who also controlled the action of "the Yearly Meeting thereon: — And the said Monthly "Meeting now unites in requesting us to forward a "minute to the Yearly Meeting respecting his case, "as one of unjust dealing, requiring its reconsidera= "=tion and a reversal of its decision thereon.

"This Meeting after serious consideration thereof, is "united in judgment that this case — equally with "that of Southkingstown Monthly Meeting calls for the "like action on the part of the Yearly Meeting; as "being essential to the maintenance of individual "rights and a due support of our precious Principles "and Discipline; — and as such we desire of the Yearly "Meeting a reversal of its former judgment therein."

The subject is referred to our Friends Jonathan Nichols and William B. Oliver of Salem; Piner Gardner and Seth Davis of Sandwich; and William Hill & Aaron Varney of Dover Quarterly Meeting, who are requested to investigate and consider the same and report their judgment thereon to a future sitting. —

We

We have also received from the same Quarterly Meeting a minute embracing the substance of Thomas P. Nichols' re=
-quest for a reversal of judgment in his case of Appeal, which is as follows, Viz:

"Rhode Island Monthly Meeting has at this time
"forwarded to us the application of Thomas P. Nichols
"to the Yearly Meeting for a reconsideration of its decision
"in his case of appeal last year relative to proceedings
"against him on the part of those who have since sep=
"erated from us; - expressing a sincere desire to be restored
"to his right of membership with Friends - of which he
"considers himself unjustly deprived; - We are united
"in presenting his case to the Yearly Meeting as one
"of Suffering for the maintenance of our Ancient prin=
"ciples and testimonies; and desire both as an act of
"justice to him and for the promotion of the Cause
"of Truth amongst us, That his case may be re=
"examined and the decission therein reversed."

Whereupon we appoint George F. Read and Christy Davis of Salem, and Job Eddy, Laban Paddock and James Austin of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting to take the subject into their serious consideration, and report to a future sitting.

Notwithstanding the Epistles from the other Yearly Meetings have either miscarried or fallen into the hands of those who have now seperated themselves from us, yet a con=
=cern has arisen to address our beloved brethren of other Yearly Meetings by this mode of communication; whereupon we appoint our Friends Isaac Fisk, George F. Read, William Hill, William B. Oliver, Hezekiah Swaine James Austin, George M. Eddy, Ebenezer Austin, Seth Davis, Ethan Foster, Thomas B. Gould, David Gorham Hussey, Charles Perry, Samuel Sheffield, Israel Buffinton, Moses Mitchell, Thomas K. Wilbur, Harvey Chace and Henry Gould, to take the subject into serious consideration and as way may open for it, prepare and produce to a future sitting Essays of Epistles to those Yearly Meetings with which we have usually corresponded. —

We

We appoint Harvey Chace, Ethan Foster and Benjamin Tucker to examine and settle the Treasurers account — consider of a sum suitable to be raised for the ensuing year and to nominate a Treasurer.

Adjourned to the Tenth hour Tomorrow morning.

Fourth day morning, the Eighteenth. Friends again assembled.

The names of the representatives being called, they were all present from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, and also from Salem and Sandwich Quarters, as at our sittings yesterday. —

The Committee appointed at a previous sitting to consider the case of John Wilbur, as brought before us by the minute of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, made the following Report; —

" To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

" The Committee in the case of John Wilbur, " report, that having met and considered the case " and taken an opportunity with him we are united " in judgment that his disownment by Greenwich " Monthly Meeting was an act of oppression, in " violation of the provisions of our Discipline, and " that the subsequent confirmation thereof by Rhode " Island Quarterly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting " was also oppressive and contrary to the Discipline, " and that therefore the former decision of the Yearly " Meeting in his case ought to be reversed and he " restored to his rights and privileges as well as his " former Station in our Religious Society.

" Signed on behalf of the Committee

" Newport 6th mo: 18th. 1845. — Prince Gardner.

Jonathan Nichols. "

Which being read and unanimously approved, was adopted; and he is accordingly restored to all his rights and privileges as a member and minister of our Religious Society: Job Eddy and Seth Davis are appointed to communicate to him information of this

reversal

reversal of the judgment entered on the Records of this meet-ing last year through the unwarrantable and desolating influence of those persons, who together with the former Clerk, then controled its proceedings. This subject having been laid before our womens meeting, we are informed it feelingly united in our reversal of judgment in this case; and our Friends last above mentioned are requested to invite John Wilbur to take his seat in this meet-ing: which was done accordingly! —

A minute has at this time been received from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting proposing that the places of holding that Quarterly Meeting should be changed from Portsmouth to Newport in the Eighth month and from Somerset to Fall River in the Eleventh month to be held at the same time as heretofore; which proposition having claimed our deliberate consideration we unite therewith, and direct that meeting to convene accordingly in the Eighth and Eleventh months; - and in order that suit-able accommodations may be seasonably provided, (our own meeting houses at those places respectively being now in the possession of the Seperatists) the Clerk is directed to furnish Rhode Island and Swanzey Monthly Meetings with a copy of this minute, and they are requested to make such temporary provision therefor, as they may think necessary, until more permanent anangments can be made: In all which we have the concurrence of the womens meeting. —

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting informs that it has united with Rhode Island Monthly Meeting in the ap-pointment of John Mitchell and Catherine Mitchell to the Station of Elders; and with Greenwich Monthly Meeting in approving the Gift and public appearances in the ministry of Hannah Carpenter. —

Adjourned to meet again this afternoon at the Fifth hour.

Afternoon: Friends again met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed in the case of Thomas P. Nichols made the following report:

"To the yearly Meeting now sitting.

"Dear Friends.

"We your committee in the case of "Thomas P. Nichols, report, we have taken two op= "portunities with him in much tenderness of feeling "and we are united in judgment that the decision "of New England yearly Meeting in Eighteen hundred "and Fourty four, should be reversed.

Newport 6th mo: 18th. 1845. (signed) Jot Eddy.
George F. Read. Laban Paddock.
Christy Davis. James Austin."

Which having been fully united with, is directed to be recorded; and the former judgment of the yearly meeting in his case is reversed (it having been con= =cluded and recorded in the same manner as the case of John Wilbur) and he is restored to all his rights as a member of our Religious Society. Israel Buffinton and Christy Davis are appointed to inform him of the conclusion of this meeting in which we have the unity of our womens meeting, feelingly and fully expressed; and the Friends above named are requested to invite him to take his seat in this meeting.

It is concluded to add the names of our Friends Nathan Page, John Wilbur, Thomas P. Nichols and Amos C. Wilbur to the Committee on the correspondence.

Adjourned, to meet again at the Fourth hour to morrow afternoon.

Fifth day afternoon, the Nineteenth;

Friends again met persuant to adjournment. —

The representatives being called, are all present as yesterday, except one, for whose absence a satisfactory reason was assigned. —

The consideration of the state of Society being entered upon by reading the Queries with the answers thereto from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting — those from the other Quarterly Meetings Quarterly Meetings having been retained by the former Clerk — said answers were seriously considered and directed to be recorded. [They are as follows.]

Ans. 1st.

Answer 1st. All our meetings have we believe been attended, and generally by most of our members, with the exception of those who have seperated themselves from us;- who have entirely absented themselves from our Meetings for Discipline; the hours pretty well observed, mostly preserved from sleeping; of other unbecoming behaviour clear as far as appears. -

Answer 2nd. Love and unity are maintained, and detraction guarded against by those who have not identified themselves as Seperatists: No differences that we know of except with such;- some care taken. -

Answer 3d. We believe Friends are mostly careful to bring up those under their care in plainness, as queried, also to restrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation;- generally exemplary themselves; although there are exceptions in these respects on the part of some of those who have seperated themselves from us. The Holy Scriptures we think are frequently read in Friends families.

Answer 4th. We know of no breach of this Query among those who are in unity with Friends. -

Answer 5th. The circumstances of the poor, we believe, are attended to; their children partake of Learning; none placed out that we know of. -

Answer. 6th. Friends are careful as respects marriage, except in a few instances:- Some care taken.

Answer 7th. We believe Friends are careful to ob= =serve the requisitions of this Query;- but we fear some of those who have seperated themselves from us are de= -ficient therein.

Answer 8th. Those in unity with us are careful to inspect their affairs, and settle their accounts, to fulfil their promises and pay their just debts; also to live within the bounds of their circumstances. -

Answer 9th. Marriage Certificates are duly recorded, births

births and deaths mostly; several removals without cer=
=tificates some of which are under notice. —

Answer 10th. Two of our Monthly Meetings report that some care has been taken to deal with offenders and to place judgment according to Discipline. By the answers from the other two it appears that way has not opened for much Labour to be bestowed; and one Monthly Meeting expresses the view that delay is necessary on account of the present unwillingness of those who have deceived, to receive their Labours of love. —

During the consideration of the State of Society as presented by the answers to the Queries, the minds of Friends were introduced into much exercise, and a proposition was made to appoint a committee to unite with a similar committee appointed by the womens meet= to visit our Subordinate meetings, as way may open for it and ability is afforded; and under the direction of Best Wisdom to advise and assist those meetings in the transaction of their business according to Discipline and the good Order of our Religious Society: Labouring in that which giveth ability to build one another up in the most Holy Faith; — which clothes with right au=thority in the Church, and forms the true ground of unity; — Whereupon Nathan Page, Jonathan Nichols, Pliney Gardner Seth Davis, Benjamin Tucker, Hezekiah Swain, John Wilbur, Nathan Buffinton, Job Eddy, Ethan Foster, George F. Read, Laban Paddock, William Hill, Thomas B. Gould, James Austin, Thomas K. Wilbur, Oliver Chace, Israel Buffinton, Harvey Chace, Charles Perry, John Mitchell, Palmer Chace, Christy Davis, Ethniel Foster, George M. Eddy, Thomas Foster, John F. Kenyon, William B. Oliver, Miller Chace, Thomas P. Nichols, Moses Mitchell Amos C. Wilbur and Benoni Weaver; — were appointed to that service: — and in order to promote the concern which has been felt and expressed that all our meetings may be duly held and supported, and that Friends may be availed of the needful assistance under this peculiar

and

and afflictive dispensation, it is concluded to give our Quarterly Meetings liberty to change the time and place of holding them from what is now provided in our discipline if circumstances should appear to render such change necessary. The clerk is directed to furnish them with a copy of this minute; and they are requested to report such change, if any should be made, in their accounts to this meeting next year. The committee were also directed to report their proceedings at the same time. —

Having at this time the company of several Friends who were not present when the case of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting was under consideration on Third day last, some of whom have expressed a desire that the subject should be further investigated by a committee specially appointed for the purpose; we have concluded to appoint our Friends Jonathan Nichols, Nathan Page and William B. Oliver of Salem; and Prince Gardner Benjamin Tucker, James Austin, John R. Baker and David Gorham Hopsey of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting to take the subject into their serious consideration and report their judgment thereon to a future sitting. —

The proceedings of those who have lately acted in the capacity of a Meeting for Sufferings, being contrary to the united sense and judgment of this meeting, inasmuch, as with the exception of a few individuals, they wholly declined to enter into an examination and comparison of the unsound doctrines of Joseph John Gurney, with those of our Religious Society, when application was regularly made to them in conformity with our discipline by many concerned Friends of different Quarterly Meetings, to investigate and testify against the same, - which was requisite for the clearing of our holy profession; as the author of those doctrines had been recently travelling amongst us with certificates from his friends at home, in the character of a member and minister of our Society, while the unsound principles contained in his va-

-rious

various publications, were not only uncondemned and unretracted, but he was himself industriously engaged in their promulgation. Thus the Meeting for Sufferings refused to represent the exercise ~~the exercise~~ and concern of "all faithful Friends" of this Yearly Meeting, in a case where the reputation of Truth and the best interests of our Religious Society were deeply involved. And not only so, but they have also, in their official capacity been engaged in circulating been engaged in circulating some of those unsound publications; and, as individuals, they have widely circulated many of them. Moreover, some of the members of the Meeting for Sufferings, who were also members of the Yearly Meeting's Committee, attended Swanzey Monthly Meeting and actually produced a separation therein — advising and assisting in the appointment of a new Clerk, and the organization of a separate Monthly Meeting, in flagrant violation of the good order and discipline of Society; soon after which, they procured its adjournment, leaving Friends, with the regular Clerk in the house, in the regular transaction of their business.

The same members of the Meeting for Sufferings, with many others then acting in the capacity of the Yearly Meeting's committee, or as a Committee of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, had previously and indefatigably laboured to procure the disownment, or the removal from all responsible stations and offices of trust, in Swanzey, and several other Monthly Meetings, of as many as were known to be opposed to the introduction and adoption of the unsound doctrines & disorderly proceedings referred to. And furthermore, through the influence and self-constituted power of these members of the meeting for Sufferings, and of the Yearly Meeting's Committee — for they were composed of nearly the same individuals the report and representatives from this spurious Monthly Meeting, were received and recorded by the person then acting as Clerk of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting while those from the ancient and regularly established Monthly Meeting of Swanzey were rejected, which produced a division in the Quarterly

Meeting

Meeting also, in the Eleventh Month 1844.

Whereupon, the Meeting for Sufferings issued a circular, addressed to our subordinate meetings, in which they presumed to testify against those Meetings and individuals, who had maintained their integrity and allegiance to the established order and discipline, and to the ancient doctrines and testimonies of our Religious Society; and in which they sanctioned and endorsed those disorderly proceedings and irregular meetings which had been founded upon, and set up in support of the unsound doctrines of Joseph John Gurney.

Thus not only refusing to testify against those unsound doctrines which had so seriously affected the welfare and reputation of our Society, but actually interfering with, and deciding upon matters of discipline, not determined by the Yearly Meeting, and in direct violation of its well known discipline.

Lastly, they have (with the exception of a few individuals) gone out from among us by an open schism at this time, attaching themselves to, and copying the records of their proceedings before another body claiming our name, which has been set up and held in similar violation of the good order and discipline of the Society, and in support of the same Doctrines already described in this minute, as having been fully endorsed by the Meeting for Sufferings last year under appointment; whose term of service has now expired, according to the usage of this Yearly Meeting; and the propriety of entering into a new appointment claiming our consideration, it is concluded to appoint, Jonathan Nichols, Seth Davis, John Wilbur, Harvey Chace, John J. Kenyon Job Eddy, Charles Perry and Palmer Chace, to consider of some suitable Friends for that service and produce a list of their names at a future sitting. —

The Committee appointed at our sitting, on second day afternoon to prepare a minute of the painful circumstances under which we then stood, etc;

produced

produced one, which was read and accepted and is direct=ed to be placed on our records, preceding the opening minute made on Second day afternoon with the usual opening minute of this meeting prefixed, as we are deprived of all those made on Second day morning. —

This meeting having been brought under a serious consideration of the desolation produced in our Society by a spirit of unbelief in some of its fundamental Principles, the Committee on the Epistles are requested if way should open for it, to prepare and produce at a future sitting, an essay of a Testimony and Declaration against the innovations and misrule of those who have been deceived by it, and who have at length produced a schism in this Yearly Meeting; and also showing the contrast between the Principles and Doctrines to which they have committed themselves, and those always held by Friends. —

Adjourned. to meet again at the Tenth hour tomorrow morning.

Sixth day morning, the Twentieth. Friends again assembled.

The representatives being present as at the afternoon sitting yesterday.

The Committee appointed to lay before us a list of the names of Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings, produced the following viz:
Hezekiah Swain, John Wilbur, Seth Davis, Job Eddy, Jonathan Nichols, Prince Gardner, Nathan Page, Henry Gould, Oliver Chace, George C. Kenyon, John Mitchell, George F. Read, William B. Oliver, Charles Perry, John T. Kenyon, William Hill, Harvey Chace, Benjamin Tucker Thomas K. Wilbur, Ethan Foster,, Thomas B. Gould, Amos C. Wilbur, Ethniel Foster, Zaban Paddock, James Austin, Israel Bussinton, Palmer Chace, George M. Eddy, Nathan Bussinton, Thomas P. Nichols, Thos. Foster and Christy Davis; which being approved by this meeting, they are accordingly appoint=ed for the year ensuing, or until another

appointment

appointment; and are desired to pay due attention to the best interests of our Religious Society, during the recess of this meeting, according to our Discipline and the ability afforded them; and to lay their proceedings before this meeting next year.

The situation of our Boarding School at Providence coming under consideration, and the time for which the Committee who have had charge of that Institution having expired; and they having all gone off in this Seperation without making any report of their proceedings to us: we have appointed the following Friends, viz: Harvey Chace, George F. Read, Job. Eddy, Seth Davis, Nathan Buffinton, Amos C. Wilbur, Oliver Chace Israel Buffinton, John Foster of Hopkinton, Palmer Chace, Jonathan Nichols, Silas P. Collins, James Austin Prince Gardner, Benjamin Tucker and William Hill to have charge of that Institution - paying such atten to the same as may appear necessary and way shall open for and report to this meeting next year.

And the committee appointed to nominate are also requested to propose one for a Treasurer to the Yearly Meeting, etc, to the Yearly Meeting School Fund the person who has ~~acted~~ acted in that capacity having fully identified himself with the Seperatists.

Essays of communications to our Friends of Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York Yearly Meetings having been produced and read were acceptable to this meeting; which the Clerk is directed to sign on our behalf and forward to those Yearly Meetings respectively.

Adjourned: to met again at the Fourth hour this afternoon

Afternoon. Friends again assembled pursuant to adjournment.

The Friends appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers accounts, and for other purposes made the following report. Viz:

To New England Yearly Meeting now Sitting.

The Committee appointed to settle the Treasurers accounts

accounts and for other services, report. They called on ~~the~~ David Buffum the Treasurer appointed last year who declined treating or doing any thing about the ~~settling the accounts~~ with us. — We propose to the meeting that it raise Three Hundred dollars for its use; and propose Israel Buffinton for Treasurer.

We also propose Harvey Chace for Treasurer of the School Fund. Signed on Behalf of the Committee

Ethan Foster
Benjamin Tucker

Newport 6th month 20th 1845.

Which being read and accepted, our Quarterly Meetings are requested to raise the sum of Three hundred dollars in their usual proportions and forward the same to Israel Buffinton who is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this meeting for the year ensuing: and the Clerk is directed to furnish those meetings with ~~a copy of this minute~~ the neccessary information.

The Committee to whom that subject was referred proposed the name of Harvey Chace for Treasurer of ~~the~~ our School Fund, which being united with he is accordingly appointed for the year ensuing or until another appointment shall be made: And we appoint William Hill, Charles Perry, George F. Read and Benjamin Tucker a committee on behalf of this meeting, to call on Wm Jenkins the former Treasurer of that fund, and request him to deliver to them the monies, securities, stocks and other effects now in his possession belonging to that fund, and they are authorized to give him a receipt therefor on our behalf which shall be his sufficient discharge; and to place the property so delivered to them in the hands of the Treasurer now appointed taking his receipt therefor. The Clerk is directed to furnish the Committee with a copy of this minute.

The Committee appointed to consider the case of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting made the following report, To wit:

"To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting:

"The Committee appointed to consider the application of "many of the members of the late South Kingstown Monthly meeting

"meeting to the Yearly Meeting for a reversal of the judgment
"of Rhode Island Quarterly meeting, by which that Monthly
"Meeting was dispolved, and the confirmation of said judgment
"by the Yearly Meeting in 1843; having given the case a
"serious and deliberate investigation; Report that they find
"that the dispolution of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting
"was contrary to the provis-ions of the Discipline in re-
=lation to the dispolution of Monthly Meetings, and are
"therefore united in judgment, that the decision of Rhode
"Island Quarterly Meeting and its subsequent confirma
=tion by the Yearly Meeting ought to be reversed and
"the Monthly Meeting restored to the rights priviledges
"and obligations belonging to and resting upon it before
"the dispolution. (signed) Prince Gardner.

Newport 6th Month 20th 1845. Benjamin Tucker.

James Austin. Jonathan Nichols.

David G. Hussey. Nathan Page.

William B. Clinton. John R. Baker."

Which being read and considered was fully united with and adopted, and that Monthly meeting is accordingly re-stored to all its rights and privileges as exprest in said report and the Clerk is directed to furnish Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting with a copy of this minute (instead of that which was made at a previous sitting) the Womens Meeting being also united herein.-

An Essay of an Epistle to our Friends of this Yearly Meeting having been produced and read was approved; - and the appointment of correspondents for the Yearly Meetings of London and Dublin coming under consideration our Friends John Wilbur of Hopkinton Rhode Island Joel Eddy of New Bedford Massachusetts and Thomas B. Gould of Newport Rhode Island were appointed to that service. -

Adjourned to the Tenth hour Tomorrow morning

Seventh day morning the Twenty First: met pursuant to adjournment. The Representatives ^ names being called ^ they were present as heretofore. -

The

The London General Epistle having been produced was read: and also copys of communications to our Friends of that Yearly Meeting and Dublin; as well as to those of the yearly Meetings of North Carolina and Indianna; which being approved the Clerk is directed to sign and forward them, and also that to Ohio, read yesterday afternoon, ~~The Clerk is directed to sign and forward~~ to those Yearly Meetings respectively.

A concern having arisen in this meeting in regard to the condition of the Indian Tribes in the various parts of our extended Country, and more especially - the Penobscot & Passamiquody Tribes which have heretofore been under the care of this Yearly Meeting; - much feeling was expressed with regard to them; yet as none of the members of the Committee on this concern appointed last year are now with us — such as were in attendance having identified themselves with the Seperatists; — no way has appeared to open for us to act therein at this time; but a desire has been felt and expressed that Friends may continue to rest under the weight of the concern. —

The important and painfully interesting subject of Slavery having also been feelingly introduced at the present sitting, we desire to encourage our Friends everywhere to maintain our testimony faithfully against this great sin and system of oppression, — recent efforts for the extension of which on the part of the National Government, we have witnessed with deep regret. —

Adjourned to the Third hour this afternoon.

Afternoon: Friends again assembled. —

The Meeting for Sufferings is authorized, if it should appear requisite for the clearing of Truth to print either the minutes of this meeting, or extracts therefrom.

Adjourned to meet again at this house on Second day next at the Tenth hour in the morning.

Second day morning the 23d of Sixth month

Friends

Friends again assembled persuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives being called they were present as at our Sittings on seventh day last, except one, who then obtained liberty to return home. —

The Committee to whom the subject of preparing an Epistolary Declaration and Testimony, embracing the proceedings of those who have seperated themselves from us, and a Contrast of the unsound Doctrines which have been recently introduced and extensively promulgated amongst us, with those originally held maintained, and supported by our Religious Society, produced one, in accordance with the exercise and concern of this Meeting, which being read and deliberately considered, was united with and adopted both by our men's and women's meetings, and the Clerks were respectively directed to sign it on our behalf, it being as follows [See page 26 to 81] and the Document is referred to the Meeting for Sufferings which is authorized to have not less than one thousand copies printed for distribution; and if in the judgment of that Meeting it should appear necessary, they are left at Liberty to have a Larger number printed.

The Clerk is authorized to make any necessary extracts from the minutes not already provided for and to sign them on our behalf. —

Notwithstanding the peculiar trials of faith and patience which have fallen to our lot during a portion of the time of our attendance upon this our Annual Assembly; yet we are engaged to acknowledge with reverence and thankfulness, that He who first gathered us into a distinct Religious Society has not been unmindful of us during these deep afflictions; but on the contrary has been pleased in His unmerrited mercy to overshadow us with the wing of Ancient Goodness especially since we have been delivered from those

those who have oppressed us) to comfort us with His love and to enable us to transact the business which has come before us in harmony and to bring it to a satisfactory result;— under an humbling sense whereof, we conclude; proposing to meet again on this Island in the Sixth month next if the Lord permit.

Thomas B. Gould Clerk.

# An
# Epistolary Declaration
## And Testimony of the
## Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England,
## Respecting the Proceedings
## of Those Who Have Effected a Schism Therein:
## And Also Showing
## The Contrast
## Between the
## Doctrines which They have Promulgated
## And Supported
## And Those Which Have Always been Held
## By
# Friends.

## An Epistolary Declaration, &c.

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island from the 15th. to the 23d. of the Sixth month inclusive; 1845.

Fifth day of the week, and nineteenth of the month.

This Meeting having been brought under a serious consideration of the dissolution produced in our Society by the spirit & belief in some of its fundamental principles, the Committee in the Epistles are requested, if way should open for it, to prepare and produce at a future sitting, an essay of a Testimony and Declaration against the innovations and misrule of those who have been deceived by it, and who have at length produced a schism in this Yearly Meeting; and also showing the contrast between the principles and doctrines to which they have committed themselves, and those always held by Friends.

Second day of the week, and twenty-third of the month.

The Committee to whom the subject of preparing an Epistolary Declaration and Testimony, embracing the proceedings of those who have seperated themselves from us, and a contrast of the unsound Doctrines which have been recently introduced and extensively promulgated amongst us with their tendency to subvert, maintained, and supported by our religious Society, produced one in accordance with the exercise and concern of this Meeting, which being read and deliberately considered, was united with & adopted, both by our men's and women's meetings, and the Clerks were respectively directed to sign it on our behalf, it being as follows:

In view of the manifold dishonour [illegible] under our name from the original ground of our Christian profession, & under a sense of the deep sufferings which we have had to pass through, and which doubtless await all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, the importance of steadfastly maintaining the faith & patience of the saints, has been weightily impressed upon us, and our minds have been introduced into much concern during the several sittings of this [illegible] with [illegible] desire that He who is able to keep us from falling, may be pleased in His unmerited mercy to send us help from the Sanctuary, and to strengthen us out of Zion.

We are engaged to testify and declare unequivocally, against

the unfruitful works of that libertine spirit, which has been the cause of a unwonted anxiety that has recently taken place in the mind of many who still choose, for obvious reasons, to be called by our name; and which is still seeking to remove the ancient landmarks, to destroy the foundations of the visible one, and to lay waste the Lord's goodly heritage. This spirit is the more deceptive and dangerous, inasmuch as it has been insidiously brought in among us through the subtilty of the serpent; and by the power of the destroyer, has been disguised & transformed into the appearance of an angel of light, to the ensnaring of the feet of the unwary. We have laboured in the ability received for the preservation of the members of this Yearly Meeting in which the most desolating, and the most serious breaches have been made; and we still feel an earnest solicitude, that all those who under standings have been wounded, through these specious appearances, and who have been taken in the snare thus artfully laid for them, may be favoured to experience unfeigned repentance, unto the acknowledgement of the Truth, and a thorough conformity to the way thereof; that so they may be reconciled to their brethren, and restored to the unity of the one true and living Faith, as it is in Jesus Christ, our our blessed and holy Redeemer.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, within which this dividing and scattering spirit was earliest and most prominently manifested, has already published "An Address to Friends of this Yearly Meeting and elsewhere," embracing many of the important facts and circumstances which have transpired within its limits, including a particular account of those preceding and attending the seperation first produced therein, by the same spirit & effected by the same persons, who have now brought about a seperation in the Yearly Meeting itself. To this Address, which has had an extensive circulation, we refer for the important information which it contains. And we apprehend Friends generally have had the opportunity of becoming even more fully and minutely informed respecting the most prominent defections in principle, and striking violations of the good order and Discipline of our religious Society, on the part of those in this Yearly Meeting who have very much controled its proceedings for several years past, and through such unwarrantable and arbitrary control, have produced the present lamentable state of things among us — carried even to the extremity of an actual seperation of themselves in a body, from the religious Society of Friends. It does not therefore seem now

now to be required of this Meeting, to enter into a detail of all those acts of oppression and misrule which have characterized their proceedings; but we are concerned to bring to view the more prominent & palpable causes which have led to such sad results, and to trace the further workings of that deceptive spirit, during this our annual assembly, as manifested by those who are under its beguiling and seductive influence; to caution and entreat our dear friends everywhere, to guard against its insidious approach and fearful ravages, and to present a contrast of some of the unsound doctrines of Joseph John Gurney, with those of our approved and standard writers. For, however the attempt may be made to conceal it, those who have now effected a seperation of themselves from us, have fully, repeatedly, and officially acknowledged the above named author as a duly accredited and authorized minister, with whom they have unity — and by placing a record on their minutes of his presence, and of their satisfaction with his company, they have formally identified themselves with him and his "doctrines," which view is confirmed by their having given wide, and in some instances, official circulation to his writings, notwithstanding their manifest unsoundness and inconsistency with those which have always been held by Friends, as will fully appear by the contrast hereinafter presented.

And notwithstanding the contrary assertions and professions of those who have thus flagrantly violated our Discipline, by the introduction and promulgation of unsound doctrines, by strenuously upholding and defending the above named author of them, and by resisting, opposing and depriving of their dearest rights and privileges, not only individuals, but meetings, which have manifested a withstand such innovations — notwithstanding their most solemn professions of soundness in the faith and of an adherence to the ancient principles and Testimonies of our Society, and a support of our Discipline and the maintenance of good order, or their pretention that these difficulties have not had their origin in any departure on their part from the Truth; yet vain will it be for them to make such pretentions, assertions, or professions, while their own acts stand recorded against them; and those unsound doctrines referred to, which have given rise to such inconsistent conduct and mal-administration of the discipline on their part, remain uncondemned and unretracted by them, together with those acts and conclusions which have been resorted to in order to promote the accomplishment of their design to modify and change the principles of this Society.

But in order more fully to set forth the division that has prevaded this Meeting, we make some extracts from its minutes.

"During assembled under circumstances very peculiar and painful, it has appeared to us important, briefly to set forth and to place upon our records, some of those causes which produced a division in Rhode Island Quarterly & Meeting and its subordinate branches, during the past year, and which resulted in a fearful schism in the early part of this Yearly Meeting, whereby we have been deprived, not only of the reports from all our Quarterly Meetings except one, but also of the books and papers of the Yearly Meeting, including the minutes made during our first sitting, [on second day morning.]

"For several years past many of the most prominent and influential members of this Yearly Meeting, who had formaly appeared to be in good measure stablished in the truth, but who, for want of an humble abidance therein, which would have preserved them out of all error, have fallen from that state and standing which they once knew, and have manifested a desire to depress & lower the standard of our Christian profession, by introducing & conniving at the introduction of Doctrines, principles, and practices at variance with and subversive of those which have ever distinguished us as a people, as set forth in the standard writings of our early Friends, particularly in "Rules of Discipline" "Epistle on the Fundamental Christian Divinity," which has been fully approved and adopted, not only by this Meeting, but by the Society at large.

"In order the more easily to effect a change in our well known principles corresponding with that which had taken place in themselves, they have not hesitated to lay waste the good order and discipline of the Church — making use of the station and influence which they had improperly retained in the Society, and of a profession of great concern for the maintenance of its order to conceal their secret defection in principle, and to gloss over their proceedings, which were designed to "hurt and destroy" those who could not be induced to unite with them in removing "the ancient landmarks" of our Christian profession, or to refrain from bearing testimony to the Truth as always held and supported by Friends, and as enjoined by our Discipline.* Seeming to depend very much upon their numerical strength

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* Extract from our printed Discipline, pages 74 and 75. "The importance of steadily maintaining our ancient principles, respecting the doctrines of the Gospel, coming renewedly under our consideration, we earnestly recommend and enjoin upon Quarterly & Monthly Meetings,

many and various have been the artifices to which they have resorted, to increase and perpetuate their own power and numbers. They have been unwearied in raising and spreading unfounded prejudices and evil reports, against those Friends (both at home and abroad,) who firmly opposed these innovations, some of whom in this way, they succeeded in laying under dealing and disowning. And in order to effect this purpose they have very improperly interfered with the administration of the Discipline in different Monthly Meetings; in one instance dissolving a Monthly Meeting in a manner plainly contrary to the express provisions of the Discipline, and in another, causing a seperation, and setting up a spurious Monthly Meeting.

" Thus the most important rights of individuals and of meetings have been disregarded, whenever the testimonies of the one, or the conclusions of the other, have stood in their way. And when their proceedings with respect to these, have been brought up for investigation, by appeal to the Yearly Meeting, the undue influence and power which they had attained, as well as the declensions of many with them into outward, literal views and interpretations of Scripture, has enabled them to sustain themselves by an apparent majority of numbers.

" Many of these prominent and influential men who as a Standing Committee of the Yearly Meeting, have been for a long time engaged in efforts to suppress all expression of dissatisfaction with the new doctrines sought to be introduced amongst us, were actively engaged in effecting the seperation in Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, and in sustaining the spurious Quarterly Meeting there.

" At the first sitting of the Yearly Meeting the reports from

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and upon all faithful Friends, to be watchful over our members, as it regards the profession of their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, both as to his outward coming in the flesh, wherein he tasted death for every man, and was the propitiatory sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world, suffering the just for the unjust, that we might be brought unto God through Him; — and to his Spiritual appearance in the heart, for "unto them that look for him, shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

" And if in any instance there should be manifested any declination from our Christian principles in those respects that they proceed to labour with such in the spirit of meekness & wisdom, endeavoring to bring them to a sense of their departure from our acknowledged principles, that if possible they may be restored in the bond of faith. And if there should be any who should persist in their errors, notwithstanding such labour in brotherly love, that our testimony be maintained by testifying against such."

the said spurious Quarterly Meeting was read, together with those from the other Quarters, and the representatives names entered upon the minutes. The report from the genuine Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting was afterwards read and minuted as purporting to come from that meeting, and the representatives names recorded — whereupon a member of the Standing Committee proposed a reference of the subject, to the representatives from all the Quarterly Meetings except Rhode Island, for them to report which of the two meetings and sets of representatives, should be acknowledged by the Yearly Meeting.

"The representatives from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting objected to this proposition upon the ground that several of the representatives from the different Quarters were members of the Standing Committee, already implicated in the seperation within their limits, and in the support of the unsound doctrines and disorderly practices before alluded to; — and moreover that unfair and proscriptive measures had been resorted to in the appointment of some of the representatives, with a special view to the existing controversy among us. In one Quarterly Meeting all who were suspected of being opposed to the previous proceedings within this branch of the Society, were excluded from appointment as representatives, — and the members of one Monthly Meeting belonging to that Quarter were wholly excluded, both from being appointed and from nominating others for representatives. At another Quarterly Meeting, members of the Standing Committee attended and advised against the appointment of such as had not unity with their proceedings.

"The repeated and fruitless efforts heretofore made to obtain justice through the intervention of Committees of the Yearly Meeting, was fully brought to view. Allusion was also made to the evidence abundantly afforded, that such Committees, appointed in the partial & unfair manner they ever have been, in cases involving the conduct of the Standing Committee, are always greatly under the control of a few influential individuals, mostly members of that Committee. And it was further declared that the sufferings of faithful Friends in their endeavours to stand for the precious Cause of Truth, were mainly to be attributed to the proceedings of that Committee, and that the sad difficulties by which this Yearly Meeting is now encompassed, lie at their door. The representatives from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting proposed that the matter should be investigated and decided by the Yearly Meeting, without reference to a Committee, that all might have a fair opportunity to see and judge for themselves. There was much expression in favour of this proposal by friends from different Quarterly Meetings,

but many continued to urge the reference to the representatives. Those from Rhode Island informed the Yearly Meeting that they could not consent to such a disposition of the case for the reasons which had been given. The Clerk notwithstanding made a minute giving it that direction, and being about to communicate the information to the women's meeting, the messengers were requested to inform them that this conclusion was without the consent and against the judgment of the representatives from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting. On their return, being enquired of whether they had done so, they made no reply. The meeting was then requested to instruct the representatives to give such information to the women, but a few voices were raised against it, and it was not done.

"It was now proposed by Abraham Shearman, Jr., the acting Clerk, to suspend that rule of our Discipline which requires "the representatives to meet at the conclusion of the sitting on second day morning and agree upon a Clerk for the year and report the same to the adjournment." A minute was made to this effect, although objected to on the part of the representatives from Rhode Island, and no time being specified, it was thus left in the discretion of the representatives when they would attend to the service. The meeting soon after adjourned to the fourth hour on Second day afternoon.

Previous to the adjournment, one of the representatives from Rhode Island distinctly proposed and requested that Friends of that Quarterly Meeting, and such others as might be disposed to join them therein, should take a solid opportunity of conferring together in that house, at the conclusion of that sitting, in order that they (the representatives) might be further ascertained of the sense and judgment of Friends, whether they should appear before the representatives from the different Quarterly Meetings, and defend the case which had been referred to them in the manner above stated; and if not, to endeavour to see what steps it might seem proper in the wisdom of Truth for them to take under this very peculiar and trying state of things. This request was extended to all who desired to maintain the ancient principles of Friends, and that the Yearly Meeting should be sustained & held upon its original foundation. No objection was made to it, but the Clerk said the representatives would meet in that room on the case referred to them from Rhode Island, whereupon another of that party who afterwards seceded, signified that we might meet in the Committee room. At the conclusion many Friends accordingly remained in the house, but finding it impossible to confer together

there, freely and without interruption from others, they agreed upon an other time and place of meeting, and then quietly withdrew.

"Friends were introduced into deep exercise and travail of spirit, wherein living desires were raised in the hearts of many for best Help and direction: and when they again assembled free from interruption, under an awful sense of the importance of moving only in the line of Divine appointment, they were united in judgment that it would not be right to appear with their case, before the representatives who were then sitting in our meeting house — and who were immediately informed of this conclusion. It was also the united sense and judgments of Friends, that in order to sustain the Yearly Meeting in conformity with its long established Discipline, and upon its original ground; with the ancient doctrines and testimonies of the Society unimpaired, it was indispensible that the representatives should meet, and agree upon and propose a Clerk to the next sitting, as by discipline and former usage is required."

The Yearly Meeting having again convened in the afternoon, soon after the opening minute was read, Prince Gardner, on behalf of the representatives who met as Clerks, (which included all those from Rhode Island, and some from Sandwich Quarterly Meetings,) reported that they were united in proposing the names of Thomas B. Gould for Clerk, and Charles Perry for assistant Clerk, for the ensuing year. This proposal was united with by many, but a large number opposed it, and the former Clerks continued to sit at the table. Whereupon, those agreed to and proposed by the representatives, were requested to take their seats at a table in a part of the house, where most of the Friends who had united in their appointment were sitting. After making a minute of the appointment of Clerks &c., the names of the representatives from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting of Friends were called, and all responded thereto. The Clerk then proceeded to read the report from that meeting, in which he was greatly interrupted by many in different parts of the house. Abraham Shearman, jr., (the former Clerk,) left his seat, and passing along the minister's gallery towards that part of it where the Clerk was standing, called upon him to desist, but after a short pause, the reading was calmly proceeded in until finished. After appointing a Committee to prepare and produce at a future sitting, a more extended minute to be entered on our records, embracing the very trying circumstances in which we were placed, with the ground and cause thereof, it did not appear proper on account of the great interruption Friends met with, to introduce any further business at that sitting. The Yearly

Meeting concluded to adjourn to meet on Third day morning at the tenth hour, of which the women's meeting was informed, and adjourned accordingly. This fact being reported to the seperate meeting by their messengers, they adjourned to meet at the same place, at the ninth hour.

Upon their interruption during this sitting, Abraham Shearman, jr., called upon the representatives, except those from Rhode Island to express their dissent from the appointment of Clerks, which was done by thirty-eight of them; four were in unity with the the appointment, and three were absent. After this, Abraham Shearman, made a minute, which he read, declaring that the Clerk and assistant, both of whom were representatives from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, were not members of our religious Society, thus at once deciding the question which they had professed to submit to the representatives, who had not then reported; proving that such submission was but a mere subterfuge to pervert and turn aside true judgment. On this being objected to in meeting, Abraham Shearman changed his minute, so as to give the names of our Clerks, instead of designating them as "individuals, not members," &c. *

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* It is worthy of especial observation, that a large number of Friends who had been proceeded against and disowned by the several seperate Monthly Meetings already set up within the limits of Rhode Island Quarter, were freely admitted to sit and take part in the business of the Yearly Meeting during the first sitting, notwithstanding they had been forcibly excluded (and in some instances violently ejected,) from their own meeting houses, throughout that Quarter, and even from entering the public meetings for worship, which preceded some of the Quarterly Meetings. This is the [illegible] at the instance, and by the authority of those persons who were then members of the meeting for Sufferings, and of the Yearly Meeting's Committee of such notoriety and long standing, and who still had the entire control of the Yearly Meeting as has **herein** been shown. Now whatever was the motive which those "prominent and influential men" had, in thus allowing [illegible] to be disowned, one thing is very clear, that their conduct was inconsistent with any pretention to the maintenance of our Discipline, of which [illegible]

our women Friends fared differently — for although they were allowed to enter the house, yet they were strongly and repeatedly urged to leave it, on the [illegible]

This was continued, until information was given by the [illegible] of the course they had taken, when the acting Clerk of the women's meeting

[illegible] house already occupied by the seperate meeting — whereupon, the Yearly Meeting gathered and was opened in the yard, the men's meeting near one end of the house, and the women's at the other. Each meeting appointed a Committee to apply to those in the house for the vacation of the Clerk's tables, for the use of the yearly Meeting and its Clerks, and also for the transfer of the books and papers thereof, which application having been made and unconditionally refused, we were deprived of the reports from all our Quarterly Meetings, except Rhode Island. One representative from Salem, and three from Sandwich Quarterly Meetings uniting with us, were recognized as such by the meeting, which, with those from Rhode Island, make thirteen representatives to the men's meeting, who have remained with Friends.

After being thus obliged to hold our meeting, both of men and women Friends, standing in the open air for nearly two hours, it was concluded to adjourn the Yearly Meeting to the Baptist Meeting House in Clark street, which was kindly opened for that purpose. Friends having removed from our meeting house yard in a body, convened again immediately at the place proposed, and sitting for a time together, our hearts were tendered and united under the consoling influence of the Great Head of the Church, who, as we feel bound reverently to acknowledge, has been pleased in his unmerited mercy and in a remarkable manner, to own us in the way which we go, to manifest

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reluctantly read the account from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting of women Friends, noticed it on the minutes, as purporting to be from that Meeting, and recorded the names of the representatives. The case was referred to the representatives from the other Quarters, as had been done in the men's meeting, similar action on the part of the representatives from Rhode Island, in consequence of the messengers who had been sent from the men's meeting having omitted to give the information as requested, that we had wholly declined such reference, but conveyed an entirely contrary impression. Neither did they inform the women of our objection to the suspension of the Discipline — so that our women's representatives felt justified in meeting at the close of that sitting, and agreeing upon, and proposing Clerks to the sitting in the afternoon, according to our printed Discipline, and those thus proposed, were united with, and appointed <u>without objection</u>.

From the facts stated, it is evident that whatever action Abraham Shearman, jr., and Hannah Gould, jr., took, after the sitting of [illegible] was irregular and unauthorized by our printed and established Discipline, which is not subject to such change or suspension to suit circumstances, as that proposed by Abraham Shearman, jr., and that those bodies had no Clerks conformable to our Discipline during their sitting on [illegible]

Himself among us by His Spirit, to uphold and preserve us by His power, amid the varied conflicts which we have had to pass through, for His great name's sake: Under feelings of deep sorrow and concern for those who have been drawn aside from the Truth, and of thankfulness to the Lord our Preserver, such was the solemnity and the preciousness of the covering which in adorable mercy was spread over us, that it was concluded to adjourn without introducing any business at that time."

The subsequent sittings of the Yearly Meeting have been regularly held at the same place, and although greatly reduced in numbers, Friends have been mercifully favoured during these several sittings, to experience renewed and abundant evidence, that He who leadeth the blind by a way which they know not, and in paths which they have not seen, is not unmindful of his people — and that while in the counsels of his own will he hath permitted them to be thus sifted and very closely tried, yet that he will in his own good time, gather the outcasts of Israel and the dispersed of Judah, raising up judges as at the first, and counsellors as at the beginning, who shall not err in vision or stumble in judgment, but who shall be enabled by His holy help to lay judgment to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: for Zion was to be redeemed through judgment and her converts with righteousness; and we are persuaded that He who reigneth King in the midst of Zion, will verify his ancient promise, "I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds saith the Lord, because they called thee an Outcast, saying, this is Zion whom no man seeketh after." "Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof. And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving, and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small. Their children also shall be as aforetime; and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them."

"The proceedings of those who have lately acted in the capacity of a Meeting for Sufferings, being contrary to the united sense and judgment of this meeting, inasmuch, as with the exception [illegible] and comparison of the unsound doctrines of Joseph John Gurney, with those of our Religious Society, when application was regularly

made to them in conformity with our discipline; by many concerned Friends in different Quarterly Meetings in unison and harmony against the same, which was requisite for the clearing of our holy profession; as the author of those doctrines had been recently travelling amongst us, with certificates from his friends at home, in the character of a member and minister of our Society, while the unsound principles contained in his various publications, were not only uncondemned and unreproved, but in some instances encouraged in their promulgation. Thus the Meeting for Sufferings refused to represent the exercise and concern of "all faithful Friends" of this Yearly Meeting, in a case where the reputation of Truth and the best interests of our Religious Society were deeply involved. And not only so, but they have also, in their official capacity been engaged in circulating some of those unsound publications; and, as individuals, they have widely circulated many of them. Moreover, some of the members of the Meeting for Sufferings, who were also members of the Yearly Meeting's Committee [illegible] produced a seperation therein, advising and assisting in the appointment of a new Clerk and in organizing a seperate Meeting, [illegible] flagrant violation of the good order and discipline of Society; soon after which, they procured its adjournments, leaving Friends with the regular Clerk in the house, in the regular transaction of their business.

"The same members of the Meeting for Sufferings, with many others then acting in the capacity of the Yearly Meeting's Committee; or as a Committee of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, had previously and indefatigably labored to procure the disownment, or the [illegible] and several other Monthly Meetings, of as many as were known to be opposed to the introduction and adoption of the unsound doctrines and disorderly proceedings referred to. And furthermore, through the influence and self-constituted power of these members of the Meeting for Sufferings, and of the Yearly Meeting's Committee — for they were composed of nearly the same individuals — the report and representatives from this spurious Monthly Meeting, were received and recorded by the person then acting as Clerk of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, while those from the ancient and regularly established Monthly Meeting of Swanzey were rejected, which produced a division in the Quarterly Meeting also, in the 11th. month, 1843.

"Whereupon, the Meeting for Sufferings issued a circular addressed to our subordinate Meetings, in which they presumed to

testify against those meetings and individuals, who had maintained their integrity and allegiance to the established order and discipline, and to the ancient doctrines and testimonies of our religious Society, and in which they sanctioned and endorsed those disorderly proceedings and irregular meetings, which had been founded upon, and set up in support of the unsound doctrines of Joseph John Gurney. For so long refusing to testify against those unsound doctrines which had so seriously affected the welfare and reputation of our Society, but actually interfering with, and deciding upon matters of discipline not determined by the Yearly Meeting, and in direct violation of its well known discipline: *

"Lastly, they have (with the exception of a few individuals,) gone out from among us by an open schism at this time; attaching themselves to, and having the [illegible] another body claiming our name, which has been set up and held in similar violation of the good order and discipline of the Society, and in support of the same doctrines already noted in this minute, having been fully endorsed by the Meeting for Sufferings last year, under appointment, whose term of service has now expired according to the usage of this Yearly Meeting." Wherefore the Meeting made a new selection and appointment of Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

The sad consequences which have necessarily followed such a departure from sound principles and a wholesome discipline, on the part of the "leaders of the people," through their assuming, and until the present time retaining unwarrantable and controlling influence in the transaction of the affairs of the church in this Yearly Meeting, have been made sorrowfully apparent. It is equally clear and undeniable that those who maintain their integrity and allegiance to the sound principles,

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* The duties of the Meeting for Sufferings in this respect, are clearly defined in the Discipline, (pages 71 and 71,) by which that meeting is constituted, as the following extracts will show.

"They are desired to take cognizance of all grievances arising amongst [illegible] Friends [illegible] affected [illegible] to advise, counsel and assist, as best wisdom may direct: and any aggrieved Friend or Friends, may apply to them, either in a collective or seperate capacity, as the circumstances of the case may require." They are "in general to represent this [Yearly] Meeting in all cases where the reputation and interest of truth and our religious society are concerned, provided they do not meddle with matters of faith and discipline not already determined in the Yearly Meeting."

Christian doctrines, and long established discipline of our religious Society, as originally held and supported by the first Friends are the Society, whether it be composed of less or more members. Neither can mere signed professions of an adherence to first principles be availing to those who have so departed, until the offences which they have committed by introducing, supporting, and defending such adverse principles, be done away, and their undisciplinary proceedings and oppressive acts reversed. We say, that until such have manifested a sincere repentance by fruits meet for the same; they, must and will be accounted as Seperatists from the true body and Society of Friends; and that no part of that Society can with safety and impunity hold correspondence or acknowledge unity with them, because all will now have an opportunity of seeing the contrast between the sound Christian principles & doctrines of the Society, which we hold, and those unsound principles and doctrines to which these seceders have given circulation, and are fully committed by officially uniting with their unrelenting author, and [illegible] him, (with the true cause of offence) even to the disownments of many faithful testimony bearers against those unsound and desolating principles, wherever they had the power; and when this self-constituted power failed them, after having been exerted to the subversion and prostration of our Discipline, they actually seperated themselves from the Society, first, in some of the subordinate meetings, and lastly in the Yearly Meeting itself.

Furthermore, we are engaged to testify and declare, that while we have the fullest unity with the ancient established principles, doctrines, testimonies, and discipline of the Religious Society of Friends, as held and supported from the beginning, and as published authoritatively to the world in "Robert Barclay's Apology for the true Christian Divinity" — his "Catechism & Confession of Faith," and his treatise on Church Government; also by George Fox, William Penn, Isaac Pennington, George Whitehead, and all those faithful sons of the morning in unity with them; — yet we have no unity or fellowship with those adverse principles and doctrines, of Joseph John Gurney, as exhibited in the following extracts from his published works, and illustrated by the disorderly practices and proceedings of his adherents, those principles and doctrines being, as the extracts from the writings of some of our early Friends which we have contrasted therewith, will show, plainly inconsistent with the doctrines of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and his Apostles, as recorded in the Holy Scriptures of Truth, which are of Divine

authority — being given by inspiration of God and written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

We therefore entreat and exhort our dear friends, everywhere, to be on their guard against receiving or imbibing any principles or doctrines that are not in accordance with those held and promulgated by the early approved writers and ministers of our Society, which we have herein referred to; and who were made in their day instrumental [illegible] in the Divine Hand [illegible] primitive Christianity, exalting the standard of Truth, and of gathering a distinct and peculiar People unto Him who was the foundation of the Prophets and Apostles, even Christ himself — the Rock of ages — being the chief corner stone. . . . . .

## Contrast of the Doctrines which J. J. Gurney with those of the Early Friends.

### Of the true Source of all Divine Knowledge.

J. J. Gurney (Portable Evidences, p. 31:) "Now the information which the Bible gives, respecting the Supreme Being, whether considered as a harmonious whole; or viewed in its principal details, is to be found originally in the Bible alone."

(id. p. 35.) "It is the Bible, and the Bible only, which declares a standard of morals, universally applicable to our need, and reliable to [illegible]"

(p. 101.) "Now it is in the Scriptures only that the attributes of our Heavenly Father are fully made known to us."

(Address to the Mechanics of Manchester, p. 6.) "This delightful science [Geology] has done much to confirm the Scripture record, and to complete that natural proof of a Supreme intelligent Being, on which all religion hinges."

Contrast the above with

Robert Barclay (Apol. Prop. II. p. 17:) "Seeing no man knoweth the Father but the Son, and he to whom the son revealeth Him; and seeing the revelation of the Son is in and by the Spirit; therefore the testimony of the Spirit is that alone by which the true knowledge of God hath been, is, and can be only revealed."

(p. 20.) "For the better understanding, then, of this proposition, we do distinguish betwixt the certain knowledge of God, and the uncertain; betwixt the spiritual knowledge and the literal; the saving heart knowledge, and the saving head knowledge. The last, we confess, may

in divers ways obtained; but the first, by no other way than the inward [illegible] and [illegible] of God's Spirit shining in and upon the mind, unto the saving illumination of [illegible] have any true ground to believe they have attained it, who have it not by this revelation of God's Spirit."

(p. 26.) "I would, however, not be understood, as if hereby I exclude those other means of knowledge from any use or service to man; it is far from me so to judge; as, concerning the Scriptures, in the next proposition will more plainly appear. The question is not, what may be profitable or helpful, but what is absolutely necessary. Many things may contribute to further a work, which yet are not the main thing that makes the work go on. The sum, then, of what is said, amounts to this: [illegible] of this Spirit, there is all; neither is there an absolute necessity of any other. But where the best, highest, and most profound knowledge is, without this there is nothing, as to the obtaining the great end of salvation."

William Penn (Rise and Progress, p. 27:) "[illegible] their fundamental principle, which is as the corner-stone of their faith and hope, it [illegible] and by which their manifold or main distinguishing point or principle, viz: the light of Christ within, as God's gift for man's salvation. This, I say, is as the root of the godly tree of doctrines that grew and branched out from it, which I shall now mention," &c. &c.

George Fox (Journal, Peck's edit. Vol. I. p. 92:) "Many desires after the Lord grew stronger, and zeal in the pure knowledge of God, and of Christ alone, without the help of any man, book or writing. For though I read the Scriptures that spoke of Christ and of God, yet I knew him not, but by revelation, as He who hath the key did open and as the Father of Life drew me to his Son by his Spirit."

William Penn (Pref. to Prim. Christ. Revived:) "By this short ensuing treatise, thou will perceive the subject of it, viz: the light of Christ in man, as the manifestation of God's love for man's happiness; now, forasmuch as this is the peculiar testimony and characteristic of the people called Quakers; their great fundamental in religion; that by which they have been distinguished from other professors of Christianity in their time, and to which they referred people about faith, worship and practice, both in their ministry & writings; that as the fingers shoot out of the hand, and the branches from the body of the tree, so true religion, in all the parts and articles of it, springs [illegible]."

1. f. Tierney (Essays, p. 3.15. 6 Amer. edit:) "Were I the most solitary of hermits, or cast, like the shipwrecked mariner, on an unin habited island, I could not live at all, did I not, in a multitude of instances exercise the principle of faith. I must be led about by probabilities.

"But it is in social and civil life, more particularly, that the principle of faith is called into action, and every one who has reflected on the subject, must be well aware, that were it not for the willing admission of those things which are not philosophically certain, but only in various degrees probable, and more especially for a due reliance on testimony, the whole frame work of society would be disorganized and subverted. Faith is an indispensable link in that mighty chain of divine wisdom and providence, which binds together, man to man, family to family, nation to nation; and without it, there could be no order or union in the intellectual part of God's visible creation. Such being the state of the case, there can be nothing opposed to true reason and philosophy in the perfectly reasonable fact, that unassisted man should submit to the moral government of God, and in order to that religious life which is alone productive of eternal happiness, men are required to bring the same principle into action, and to regulate their dispositions and conduct not merely by their knowledge of that which is certain, but more especially and more extensively by their belief of that which is probably."

(p. 353.) "Faith draws near unto that God whom reason has discovered," &c. — "But as long as these noble faculties of the human mind are kept," &c. . .

(p. 357.) "It is a reliance of the soul, on the incarnate Son, who conducts the great scheme appointed for our salvation."

(p. 359.) "Although this trust in God may, through grace, be exercised by persons who possess no other information on divine subjects, than that which they derive from natural religion, yet the declarations of Scripture respecting faith, have been, in all ages, addressed to that part of mankind, who have enjoyed the light of an outward revelation."

(p. 366.) "This faith is the means through which we receive the Holy Spirit, by whom we are regenerated and sanctified. Lastly, a saving faith in Jesus is not merely intellectual, it springs from the heart, works by love, gradually accepts the Saviour in all his offices, and gently constrains the Christian to take up his daily cross and follow Christ."

(Outlines of Christian Doctrine, p. 1:) "But on what moral and religious knowledge is founded? I answer, on that which is the basis of every other branch of knowledge — belief."

Contrast the foregoing with "Robert Barclay"

William Penn (Prim. Christ. Rev. Chap. XI.:) "The fourth thing affirmed is, that these revelations [the immediate revelation of Christ by the Holy Spirit] were the objects of the saints' faith of old. This will easily appear by the definition of faith, and considering what its object is; for which we shall not dive into the curious and various notions of the schoolmen, but stay on the plain and positive words of the Apostle Paul, who (Heb. XI.) describes it two ways: 'Faith (saith he) is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen'; which, as the apostle illustrateth it in the same chapter by many examples, is no more but a firm and certain belief of the mind, even as it is, and in a sense possesseth the substance of some things hoped for, through its confidence in the promise of God; and thus the soul hath a most firm evidence, by its faith, of things not yet seen or come to pass. The object of this faith is the promise, word, or testimony of God, speaking in the minds. Hence it hath been generally affirmed, that the object of faith is Deus loquens, &c., that is, God speaking, &c., which is also manifest from all those examples deduced by the apostle throughout that whole chapter, whose faith was founded neither upon any outward testimony, nor upon the voice or writing of man, but upon the revelation of God's will manifest unto them and in them."

(p. 37.) "Moreover, if the faiths of the ancients were not one and the same with ours, i.e. agreeing in substance therewith, and receiving the same definition, it had been impertinent for the apostle (Heb. Xi.) to have illustrated the definition of our faith by the examples of that of the ancients, or to go about to move us by the example of Abraham, if Abraham's faith were different in nature from ours. For doth any difference arise hence, because they believed in Christ with respect to his appearance outwardly as future, and we as already appeared; for neither did they then so believe in him to come, as not to feel him present with them, and witness him near; seeing the apostle saith, 'They all drank of that spiritual rock which followed them, which rock was Christ'; nor do we so believe concerning his appearance past, as not also to feel and know him present with us, and to feed upon him; — except Christ (saith the apostle) be in you, ye are reprobates; so that both our faith is one, terminating in one and the same [illegible]." —

William Penn (Prim. Christ. Rev. Chap. XI.:) "Yet we are very ready to declare to the whole world, that we cannot think men and [illegible] without the sense & experience of the other [His inward & spiritual appearance]

George Fox (Journal, Leeds edit. Vol. II. p. 217:) "They whose

faith doth not stand in the power of God, cannot exalt his kingdom
[illegible] in the power of God. All that are in the true faith, that stands in the power
of God, will judge them as carnal, and judge down that carnal part
in them; that cries up Paul or Apollos; that their faith may stand in
the power of God, and that they may exalt Christ, the author of it. For every
one's eye ought to be to Jesus; and every just man and woman may
live by their faith, which Jesus Christ is the author and finisher
of. By this faith every man and woman may see God, who is invisible:
this faith gives in victory and will in walk over to God. In every
one's faith and hope standing in the power of God, an interest in
unity, victory, and access to God's throne of grace; in which faith they
please God. By this faith they are saved, by this faith they obtain the
good report, and subdue all the mountains that have been betwixt
them and God."

Isaac Penington (Works, vol. I. p. 272:) "What then is
that faith which is the gift of God? It is that power of believing
which springs out of the seed of eternal life; and leaves the heart
not with notions of knowledge, but with the power of life. The
other faith is drawn out of man's nature, by considerations which
affect the natural part, and is kept alive by natural exercises of
of reading, hearing, praying, studying, meditating in that part;
but this springs out of a seed of life given, and grows up in the life
of that seed, and feeds on nothing but the flesh and blood of
Christ; in which is the living virtue, and immortal nourish-
ment of that which is immortal. This faith, at its first en-
trance, strikes that part dead in which the other faith did grow,
and by its growth perfects that death, and raiseth up a life which
is of another nature than ever entered into the heart of man to conceive!"
(p. 273, l.) "The true faith (the faith of the gospel, I mean, the
elect, the faith which overcomes the world, and makes more
than a conqueror over sin and the power of darkness) is a belief
in the nature of God; which belief giveth entrance into, fixeth in;
[illegible] and dwelling in that nature. Unbelief cuts off the life from
and fixeth in the death; faith giveth entrance into, and fixeth in
life. Faith is an ingrafting into the vine, a partaking of the
nature of the vine; a sucking of the juice of life from the vine; which
nothing is able to do but the faith, but the belief in the nature. So
then faith is not a believing the history of the Scriptures, or a believing
that Christ died for sinners in general, or for me in particular; for
all this may be done by the unbelieving nature (like the Jew;) but a
uniting to the nature of God in Christ, which the unbeliever starts

grow in the midst of his believing of these. Yet I do not deny that all these things are to be [illegible] affirm, that they also may be believed without the true faith; and that such a belief of these doth not determine a man to be a believer in the [illegible] all these graces, and in which alone they have their true value."

Jos. Phipps (Original and Present State of Man, p. 132.) "Gospel faith in man believes the truths of all that is revealed by the Spirit, both in the heart, and in the sacred writings; because it feels it, savors it, and is one with it. It not only assents to the scriptural accounts of the incarnation, and whole process of Christ in Judea; but it also receives his internal appearance, consents to his operations, and converses with it. That faith which stands wholly upon hearsay, human testimony or examination, is only a historical and superficial credence; which permits the soul to remain in the bondage of corruption. The wicked may go this length towards gospel faith; but the true faith lays hold of, and cleaves to the Spirit of Truth, in its inward manifestations; wherein it stands, and whereby it grows, till the heart is purified, the world overcome, and salvation obtained. This faith is as a flame of pure love in the heart to God. It presses to him. The mystery of it is held in a pure conscience, and in the effective power of the everlasting gospel, &c. &c. It is the faith by which the members of Christ truly live, and abide as such. It is their invincible shield; and the knowledge of Christ in them is the proof of their possessing it. Abundance is said of the nature, power, and effects of this all-conquering faith; but I hope this will be sufficient to show, though, in its complete sense, it includes a belief of all that is said of Christ, and by Christ, in Holy Writ, it goes deeper, and arises not in man merely from the mind, but takes its birth, receives its increase from the operation of the Holy Spirit in him; which works by it to the sanctification of the heart, and the production of every Christian virtue."

## Universal and Divine Light.

[illegible] (Essay, [illegible] p. 300:) "The condition of the Gentiles, who gave themselves up to idolatrous and other vicious practices, were condemned for this [illegible] the light of nature — and both practised and promoted iniquity, although they knew the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death." — [In a note at the bottom of the page.] "S

"...ow it may be understood, that by the light of nature, I mean, simply, the light which God has communicated to the souls of men, independently of an outwardly revealed religion."

(p. 392.) "God has written his moral law on the hearts of all men, or in other words, has interwoven a sense of it with their very nature."

(Detable Evidences, p. 23.) "Yet it must be allowed that it is strictly [illegible] that even natural religion, even with the addition and providence, and that merely natural religion, even with the additional light of tradition, has left the heathen world, in all ages, in a state of great darkness respecting the Supreme Being."

(p. 164.) "Their case is not to be confounded with that of the uninstructed heathen, who have never heard the truth. To these [viz. ...instructed persons], the gospel was [illegible] ...plying that it has not to the others.]

Contrast the above with

George Fox (Journal, Vol. I. p. 112:) "I saw that Christ died for all men, and was a propitiation for all; and enlightened all men and women with his divine and saving light and that none could be a true believer, but who believed in it. I saw that the grace of God, which brings salvation, had appeared to all men, and that the manifestation of the Spirit of God was given to every man to profit withal."

(p. 224.) "I declared to them that every one that cometh into the world, was enlightened by Christ the life; by which light they might see their sins, and Christ, who was come to save them from their sins, and died for them."

(p. 120.) "Now I was speaking of the heavenly, divine light of Christ, with which he enlightens every one that cometh into the world, to give them the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ their Saviour."

Robert Barclay (Apol. Prop. V. and VI.:) "And this light enlightening the hearts of all for a time, in order to salvation: and this is it which reproves the sin of all individuals, and would work out the salvation of all, if not resisted. Now is it [illegible] universal than the seed of sin, being the purchase of his death, who tasted death for every man, &c. Whence it will follow that some of the old philosophers might have been saved, so also may some, who by Providence ... are cast into those remote parts of the world where the knowledge of the history is wanting, be made partakers of the divine mystery, if they receive and resist not that grace, a manifestation

16.

mercy is given to every man to profit withal. "This most certain and sure light and grace in all, the universality of the love and mercy of God towards mankind, both in the death of his beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the manifestation of the light in the heart, is established and confirmed against all the objections of such as deny it. Therefore, Christ hath tasted death for every man; not only for all kinds of men, as some vainly talk, but for every man of all kinds; the benefit of whose offering is not only extended to such as have the distinct outward knowledge of His death and sufferings in the letter, but even unto those who are necessarily excluded from the benefit of this knowledge by some inevitable accident; which knowledge we willingly confess to be very profitable and comfortable, but not absolutely needful unto such from whom God himself hath withheld it; yet they may be made partakers of the virtue of His death, though ignorant of the history, if they suffer his seed, light, enlightening their hearts, to take place, in which light, communion with the Father and the Son is enjoyed," &c. —

## The Gospel.

J. J. Gurney (Essays on Love to God, p. 5:) "In effecting this blessed change, &c. the Holy Spirit makes use of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as his grand, appointed instrument. That Gospel as it is in the Holy Scriptures, and preached by the Lord's messengers, is a spiritual weapon of heavenly mould; and when wielded by a divine hand, it penetrates the heart, and becomes 'the power of God unto salvation!'"

Contrast with

Robert Barclay (Apol. Prop. V. & VI. p. 168:) "Third ly, this saving spiritual light is the Gospel, which the apostle saith expressly is preached in every creature under heaven; even that very Gospel whereof Paul was made a minister, Col. i. 23. — For the Gospel is not a mere declaration of good things, being the power of God unto salvation to all men that believe, Rom. i. 16. Though the outward declaration of the Gospel be taken sometimes for the Gospel, yet it is but figuratively, and by a metonymy. Now, to speak properly, the Gospel is this inward power and life which preacheth glad tidings in the heart of all men, [illegible] inwardly from sin, from its iniquities, and therefore it is said to be preached in every creature

under heaven; whereas there are many thousands of men & women to whom the outward Gospel was never preached."

George Fox (Journal, Vol. I. p. 251:) "Waiting in the light, you will receive the power of God, which is the Gospel of peace; that you may be shod with it, and know that in one another union ariseth up the seed of God," &c.

(p. 101.) "For though ye have the four books, yet the Gospel is hid to you; who are strangers at the work of God, and do not believe that Christ hath enlightened every one that cometh into the world."

(Vol. II. p. 25.) "In their reasoning, they said, 'the gospel was the four books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,' and they called it natural. I told them, 'the Gospel was the power of God, which was preached before Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, or any of them were printed or written; and it was preached to every creature, (of which a great part might never see, nor hear of those four books) that every creature was to obey the power of God; for Christ, the spiritual man, would judge the world according to the Gospel, that is, according to his invisible power.'

## 4. The Scriptures and the Holy Spirit.

W. J. Gurney (Essay on Love to God, p. 5:) "In proportion as a real change in the affections of fallen man, the Holy Spirit makes use of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as his grand appointed instrument. That Gospel, written in the Holy Scriptures, and preached by the Lord's messengers," &c.

(p. 30.) "The love of Christ is indeed an animating subject, full of joy and sublimity; and to dwell on its principal features, under the guidance of Scripture, must be regarded as one of our happiest privileges."

(Strictures on Truth Vindicated, p. 24:) "The comparison which some of the early Friends were accustomed to institute between the Spirit as the primary rule, and the Scriptures as the secondary one was not intended, as pertaining to the question of authority, but only to that of order, and dignity."

(Essay on Love to God, p. 25.) "What a blessing, that his holiness is established beyond the possibility of a doubt, by that intuitive and light, which in characters more or less legible, he has condescended to write, by his Spirit, on the hearts of all men! It is in the Holy [illegible], that the tendency of nature is cleared & confirmed. "Let us, then, under the guidance of prophets and apostles, learn to contemplate God as our Father," &c.

(Essays, Amer. edit. p. 313.) "In the fulfilment of the will of

prophecy, in the wisdom of the written doctrine, in the purity of the written law, — in the harmony of the contents of the Bible amidst almost [illegible] — [illegible] by Divine Providence, for the illumination, conversion, & spiritual edification of man, the inquirer cannot fail to perceive unquestionable indications of the divine origin of Holy Writ." "Therefore the person who searches for that which is revealed may safely direct his unbesitating attention to that which is written."

[illegible] p. Bridl. 1832.) "The spiritual force of the Sacred Volume is that which chiefly serves to fasten its contents on the mind of every honest inquirer, whether [illegible] educated, and to produce a settled conviction of its divine origin."

(p. 5.) "It [the Bible] is a text book for moral and religious teaching, which knows no rival, and to the use and application of which there appears no limit." "Whatsoever, in the preachings or writings of modern Christians, has any tendency to convert, purify, and save the souls of men, never fails to be found in its original form in the Bible."

(p. 31.) "How the information which the Bible gives, respecting the Supreme Being, whether considered as a harmonious whole, or viewed in its principal details, is to be found originally in the Bible alone."

(p. 33.) "[illegible] the character of its author, &c. It applies to all circumstances, comprehends all conditions, regulates all motives, directs and controls all acts."

(p. 69.) "In the Bible all is simple, powerful, and practicable. Bible enough is hidden to humble us under a sense of our own ignorance enough is revealed to direct our faith, and regulate our conduct."

(p. 91.) "They [the Scriptures] unfold the law of God in all its strength and spirituality, in all the glorious variety of its details."

(p. 101.) "How it is in the Scriptures only that the attributes of our Heavenly Father are fully made known to us. And therefore it is only through the religion of the Bible, that we can obtain an adequate notion of sin."

(p. 113.) "The Bible, which alone fully reveals the nature and character of sin, expressly declares," &c.

(p. 171.) "When we open the volumes of Scripture, and propose that interpretation of its contents — especially of its more mysterious parts — which is demanded by the plain laws of criticism — laws which good sense has established, and which are familiar to every scholar — we again appeal to enlightened reason," &c. &c.

(Reliable Evidences, p. 110.) "But it is only through the

medium of revealed religion [meaning, obviously, from the context, the Bible,] that we obtain a proper conception of the nature of sin; or are enabled to form a right estimate of the moral condition of mankind."

(Shilbrock's Manchester Mechanics, p. 6.) "Moral and religious knowledge! And where is this to be obtained? Certainly we may furnish our minds with some considerable portions of it by reading the book of nature and providence; but there is **another** book which must be regarded as its repository — a book in which all things, moral and spiritual, belonging to the welfare of man, are fully unfolded." — "I believe it is also true that the law of God is written in characters more or less legible, on the hearts of all men. But for a full account of his glorious attributes — for the knowledge of religion in all its beauty and strength, and completeness, — we must have recourse to the Bible — we must meditate on the written word. There the whole moral law is delineated with a pencil of heavenly light." &c. &c.

(Sketch of Wilberforce, p. 25.) "Dr. Doddridge's Rise & Progress, and Wilberforce's own Book on Christianity — whatsoever there is of a converting nature in these and such other works, is originally expressed only in the Bible."

"Contrast the above with

Robert Barclay (Apol. Prop. III.) "Nevertheless, because they [the Holy Scriptures] are only a declaration of the fountain, and not the fountain itself, therefore they are not to be esteemed the principle ground of all truth and knowledge, nor yet the adequate primary rule of faith and manners. Yet because they give a true and faithful testimony of the first foundation, they are and may be esteemed a secondary rule, subordinate to the spirit, from which they have all their excellency and certainty — for as by the inward testimony of the Spirit we do alone truly know them, so they testify, that the Spirit is that Guide by which the saints are led into all truth; therefore, according to the Scriptures, the Spirit is the first and principle leader."

(p. 71.) "The principal rule of Christians under the Gospel is not an outward letter, nor law outwardly written and delivered, but an inward spiritual law, engraven in the heart, the law of the Spirit of Life, the word that is nigh in the heart and in the mouth." "That which is given to Christians for a rule and guide, must needs be so fit, that it may clearly and distinctly guide and order them in all things & occurrences that may fall out." "But in that there are numberless things, with regard to their circumstances, which particular Christians may be concerned in, for which there can be no particular rule had

in the Scriptures; therefore the Scriptures cannot be a rule to them." "What Scripture-rule shall inform me, whether it be my duty to preach in this or that place, in France or England, Holland or Germany? &c. — The general rules of the Scriptures, viz, to be diligent in my duty, &c. can give me no light in this thing." "Through and by the clearness which that Spirit gives us it is, that we are only best rid of those difficulties that occur to us concerning the Scriptures." "The real and undoubted experience thereof, I myself have been a witness of," &c. "If it be then asked me, whether I think hereby to render the Scriptures altogether uncertain, or useless — I answer, not at all. The proposition itself declares how much I esteem them; and provided that to the Spirit from which they came, be but granted that place which the Scriptures themselves give it, I do freely concede to the Scriptures the second place, even whatsoever they say of themselves. It is to be observed, that it is only the spiritual man that can make a right use of them — as for others the apostle Peter plainly declares, that the unstable and unlearned can wrest them to their own destruction: but here we are directed in the divine and heavenly learning of the Spirit, not in human and school literature."

(Quakerism Confirmed; Barclay's Works, Vol. III. p. 116.)

"Now as to the second branch of their argument, that the Scriptures are a sufficient Rule [illegible] tion: this is directly [illegible] said. "Although the Scriptures are [illegible] most excellent [illegible] essential and integral of Christian religion; yet our souls need a more near and immediate discovery of God than the Scripture; which is but a report of him; that he may feed and nourish us by his divine manifestations."

(Apol. Prop. II. p. 66.) "As the description of the light of the sun, and of various colors, to a blind man; who, though of the largest capacity, cannot so well understand it by the most acute and lively description, as a child can by seeing them: so neither can the natural man, of the largest capacity, by the best words, even Scripture words, so well understand the revelations of God's Spirit, as the weakest child who tastes them, by having them revealed inwardly & objectively by the Spirit."

George Fox (Journal, vol. I. p. 187:) "I directed them to the Divine light of Christ and his spirit in their hearts, which would let them see all the evil thoughts, words, and actions, that they have thought, spoken, and acted; by which light they might see their sin,

and also their Saviour Christ Jesus, to save them from their sins. This I told them was the first step to peace, even to stand still in the [illegible] might come to see how they were in the fall of old Adam, in darkness and death, strangers to the covenant of promise, and without God in the world; and by the same light they might see Christ, that died for them, to be their Redeemer and Saviour, and their way to God."

Page 429, [nearly in the same terms.]

W. Penington (Works, vol. I., p. 26:) "In my heart and soul I honor the Scriptures, and long to read them throughout with the pure eye, and in the pure light of the living spirit of God: but the Lord preserve me from reading one line of them in my own will, or interpreting any part of them according to my own understanding, but only as I am guided, led, and enlightened by him, in the will and mind leading thereto for him. [illegible] every writing of God's spirit, which is from the breath of his life, is profitable to build up and perfect the man of God."

(Works, vol. I., p. 277:) "That eye that can read the Scriptures with the light of its own understanding; that can consider and debate, and take up senses and meanings of it, without the immediate life & power; that is the eye that may gather what it can from the letters, but shall never see into the life, nor taste of the true knowledge; for Christ, who alone opens and gives the knowledge, hides the pearl from that eye."

## Justification.

J. J. Gurney (Essays, American edition, p. 357:) "From this [illegible] the order of the grace of God, justification precedes sanctification, and that the guilt in [illegible] which the ungodly are justified, has respect, in a very pre-eminent manner, to the atonement which he has made for the sins of the world."

(p. 358.) "While however the justification of the sinner, through faith in a crucified Redeemer, precedes the work of sanctification, its close and inseperable connexion with that work is evinced by the fact, that in the economy of God's spiritual government this very faith is the constituted means, through which we obtain the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Contrast the above with—

Richard Claridge (Works, as quoted, "Friends," Vol. XI., p. 231.) "If we attend to the order of the apostle's testimony (1 Cor. vi: 2,) we must

must be washed and sanctified, before we can be justified. And if we come to witness the efficacious work of the spirit of Christ, in our cleansing and sanctification; we shall know ourselves to be in a state of justification and not till then. "For though Christ be a propitiation for the sins of the whole world, yet no man can comfortably apply him as such to himself, but in the sanctifying work of the spirit." "The Arminians insisted much upon the priority of justification to sanctification, alleging that men are first justified, and then sanctified. Baxter styled that complete justification denoted a being made inwardly just, by putting an [illegible] in Christ's [illegible] lasting righteousness; and this being the work of the spirit in sanctification, sanctification must of necessity precede our justification."

R. Barclay (Apology, Prop. VII. p. 196.) "As many as resist not this light, but receive the same, it becomes in them unto purity, and all those other blessed fruits which are acceptable to God; by which holy birth, to wit: Jesus Christ formed within us, and working his work in us, as we are sanctified, so are we justified in the sight of God," &c.

(p. 217.) "Therefore, as none are said to be sanctified that are really in habit, while they are such; so neither can any be truly said to be justified, while they actually remain unjust," &c.

(p. 223.) "Having thus sufficiently proved, that by justification is to be understood a really being made righteous, the belief affirms; and that not only from a notional knowledge, but from a real, inward, experimental feeling of the thing, that the immediate, meritorious, efficient cause (if we must incendeavour distinctly to express our mind in this word) of a man's justification in the sight of God, is, the revelation of Jesus Christ in the soul, (cleansing, altering & renewing the [illegible] ) [illegible] justified and reckoned righteous before God" &c.

(p. 225.) "That it is by this revelation of Jesus Christ, and the new creation in us, that we are justified doth evidently appear from that excellent saying of the apostle," &c. "According to his mercy he hath saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost." &c. "Now, that whereby we are saved, that we are also we should justified by; which words are in this respect synonymous. Here the apostle clearly ascribes the immediate cause of justification to this inward work of regeneration, which is Jesus Christ revealed in the soul, as being that

which formerly stood us in a capacity of being reconciled with God

William Penn (Primitive Christianity Revived. Works vol. V., p. 311.) "He cannot believe that Christ's death & suffering so satisfy God, or justify men, as that they are thereby accepted of God: They are, indeed, thereby put into a state capable of being accepted of God, and through the obedience of faith, and sanctification of the spirit, are in a state of acceptance; for we can never think a man justified before God, while self-condemned, &c.

(p. 311.) "In short, justification consists of two parts, or has a two fold consideration, viz: justification from the guilt of sin & justification from the power and pollution of sin, and in this sense justification gives a man a full and clear acceptance before God; for want of this latter part it is, that so many souls, religiously inclined, are often under doubts, scruples, and despondencies, notwithstanding all that their teachers tell them of the extent and efficacy of the first part of justification. And it is too general an unhappiness among the professors of Christianity, that they are too apt to break their own active and passive disobedience with the active and passive obedience of Christ:—The first part of justification we do reverently and humbly acknowledge, is only for the sake of the death and sufferings of Christ: nothing we can do, though by the operation of the Holy Spirit, being able to cancel old debts, or wipe out old scores; it is the power and efficacy of that propitiatory offering, upon faith and repentance, that justifies us from the sins that are past; and it is the power of Christs spirit in our hearts, that purifies and makes us acceptable to God. For till the heart of man is purged from sin, God will never accept of it. He reproves, rebukes, and condemns those that entertain sin here, and therefore can't cannot be said to be in a justified state; condemnation and justification being contraries; so that they that hold themselves in a justified state by the active and passive obedience of Christ while they are not actively and passively obedient to the spirit of Christ leads, are under a strange and dangerous delusion."

[illegible] (vol. V., p. 90.) "[illegible] ification or redemption is not by believing [illegible] thing done without us (though that also is to be believed) but by receiving Him into the heart."

## Imputative Righteousness.

J. J. Gurney (Letters on Evidences, p. 51: "Yet surely it is [illegible] that Christ becomes 'our righteousness,' and that his righteousness, i[illegible]

imputed to believers, procures for them the reward of a happy immortality.

(p. 138.) "In himself indeed as a transgressor from his birth, he [man] is vile and polluted, but by the blood of Jesus sprinkled on his heart, his conscience is purged from every dead work; and having obtained an interest in the Saviour of men, he wears a robe of righteousness in which there is no spot."

(Essays, p. 306.) "Our only claim on the heavenly inheritance therefore consists in this; that God is pleased to impute to those who believe, the perfect righteousness of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Robert Barclay (Truth Cleared, &c., Works, Vol. I., p. 177.) "The last argument from 2 Cor. v. 21. is most absurd and impious, for accordingly it would follow, that as Christ was made sin for us, or suffered for our sins, who himself had no sin; so not in the least, we may be made righteous before God, though we have no righteousness, no holiness, no faith, no repentance, no mortification, no good thing wrought in us. And doth not this strengthen the wicked ungodly and profane, in their presumption, to have title to Christ's righteousness? We find the apostle makes a far better inference from Christ, his dying for us, 2 Cor. v. 15. He died for all, that they who live, might not any longer live to themselves, but to God; you, and every where he holds the forth inward holiness and righteousness, as that without which no man can lay claime to Christ. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; but he doth not say, God repute him a new creature, though he be not really renewed."

T. Ewington (Works, Vol. I. p. 97.:) "He whom God maketh righteous, can [illegible] be [illegible]. There was nothing but unrighteous could be imputed to him in transgression, before He gave him His Son, and made him righteous in his Son; for nothing is righteous with God but Christ, and man only as he is taken into his righteousness; which is done not by a believing from the bare letter, but by a receiving of faith in the life."

(p. 97.) "Faith is the gift of God, and this gift justifies; this is that which God imputeth for righteousness. The faith is in the word, and the blood in the Son; and in the true receiving of the Son, both the faith and the blood are known and felt. These are true words, though hard to the fleshly ear."

## The Sabbath & Worship.

J. J. Gurney (on the Sabbath, p. 16.:) "In applying to the

Christian's day of rest and worship, the name of Sabbath, I consider that I am fully justified both by the simple meaning of the word," &c.

(p. 1.) "The moral and therefore permanent nature of that divine institution, &c. &c.

(p. 45.) "And the day on which Jesus rose from the dead, had been hallowed by the Lord himself," &c. &c.

(p. 85.) "The Lord of the Sabbath was again honoring the day which He had chosen for himself."

(p. 102.) "On this hallowed day we are bound by a sacred obligation," &c. &c.

(p. 104.) "The whole man ought then to be presented a living sacrifice unto God."

(p. 107.) "Although these assemblies [in the middle of the week] are the means of much edification, they are seldom found to serve the purpose of social worship and communion, in their full extent."

(p. 165.) "In frequenting the solemn assemblies of the Lord's people, we ought to cultivate a joyful and thankful spirit; to train our minds to a lively perception of the beauty of holiness; and to delight ourselves in the worship of God. Let us ever, that on these occasions we meet for the purpose of commemorating the glories of creation, the wisdom and goodness of Providence, and the wonders of redeeming love."

(Contribution to a Lady's Album, Norwich, 1827, p. 5:)

"No person of serious reflection would, I presume, object to those outward institutions — such as the Sabbath day, appointed hours and places of meeting, &c. &c., which are essential, in the order of Providence, to the congregational worship of the Deity," &c. &c. *

Contrast the above with

Robert Barclay (Apol. Prop. XI., p. 350:) "We may note therefore how think with the papists, that these days are holy, and lead people into a superstitious observation of them; being persuaded that all days are alike holy in the sight of God." — "We not seeing any ground in Scripture for it, cannot be so superstitious as to believe, that either the Jewish Sabbath now continues, or that the first day of the week

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* Note. — Strikingly in contrast with these sentiments, is the following passage from the essays of Jonathan Dymond, a late esteemed member of our Society in England, and which are clearly in accordance with Friends principles on these subjects.

"That the worship of our Father who is in heaven consists, not in assembling with others at an appointed place and hour, not in joining in the rituals of a Christian church, or in performing ceremonies, or in participa- [illegible] may be done while the mind is wholly intent upon other affairs, and even

is the antitype thereof, or the true Christian Sabbath; which [illegible] no moral obligation by the fourth commandment, or otherwise, to keep the first day of the week more than any other, or any holiness inherent in it. "But first, forasmuch as it is necessary that there be some time set apart for the saints to meet together to wait upon God; and that secondly, it is fit that at some times they be freed from their other outward affairs; and that thirdly, reason and equity doth allow that servants and beasts have some time allowed them to be eased from their continual labour; and that fourthly, it appears that the apostles and primitive Christians did use the first day of the week for these purposes; we find ourselves sufficiently moved for these causes to do so also, without superstitiously straining the Scriptures for another reason, which, that it is not to be there found, many Protestants, yea, Calvin [illegible] to the fourth command, have confessed. And though it be true that [illegible] that not hinder us from having meetings also for worship at other times."

(Smythe Clarcol, &c., Works, p. 208, Vol. I.)." And their Lords [illegible] their outward affairs for a season, they may and do meet together to wait upon the Lord, and be quickened, refreshed, and instructed by Him, and worship Him in his spirit, and may be useful unto one another in exhortation, or admonition, or any other way, as the Lord shall furnish." "And it were and if the Lord had only allowed but one day of seven unto this effect." And our souls do oft bless the Lord, in allowing us many times of refreshment and strengthening, to the establishing and confirming us in his love and life, and disturbing our minds of earthly things much more frequently than in one day of seven." &c. &c.

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without any relief in the existence of God.' 'Our attendances upon public worship is a form complied with by thousands, who never kept a Sabbath in their lives.' Devotion, it is evident, is an operation of the mind; the sincere aspiration of a dependent and grateful being to Him who has all power, both in heaven and in earth: and as the exercise of a devotion is not necessarily dependent upon external circumstances, it may be maintained in solitude or in society, in the place appropriated to worship, or in the field, in the hour of business, or of quietude and rest. 'Even under a less spiritual dispensation of old, a good man "worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff." 'Now it is to be feared, that some persons, who acknowledge that devotion is a mental exercise, impose upon themselves [illegible] feelings as devotional, which are wholly foreign to the worship of God. 'There is a sort of spurious devotion — feelings having the resemblance of worship, but not possessing its nature, and not [illegible]."

George Fox (Journal, Vol. II., p. 111:) "For we were redeemed out of dayes by Christ Jesus and brought into the day which hath sprung from on high, and are come into him who is End of the Jewish shadow, and the substance of the Jews' signs."

Robert Barclay (Apol. Prop. XI. p. 351, &c.:) "We judge it the duty of all to be diligent in the assembling of themselves together — and when assembled, the great work of one and all ought to be to wait upon God; and returning out of their own thoughts and imaginations, to feel the Lord's presence, and know a gathering into his name indeed, where he is in the midst, according to his promise. And as every one is thus gathered, and so met together inwardly in their spirits, as well as outwardly in their persons, there the secret power and virtue of life is known to refresh the soul, and the pure motions and breathings of God's Spirit are felt to arise; from which, as words of declaration, prayers or praises arise, the acceptable worship is known, which edifies the church, and is well pleasing to God. — And no man here limits the Spirit of God; but every one puts that forth which the Lord puts into their hearts; and it is uttered forth, not in man's will and wisdom, but in the evidence and demonstration of the Spirit and of power. Yea, though there be not a word spoken, yet is the true spiritual worship performed, and the body of Christ edified; as it may, and hath often fallen out among us, that divers meetings have passed without one word; and yet our souls have been greatly edified and refreshed, and our hearts wonderfully overcome with the secret sense of God's power & spirit."

William Penn (Primitive Christianity Revived, chap X.) "As the Lord wrought effectually, by his divine grace, in the hearts of this people, so he thereby brought them to a divine worship and ministry: Christ's word they came to experience, viz., that God was a spirit; and that he would therefore be worshipped in the spirit, and in the truth, and that such worshipers the Father would seek to worship him. For, owing to the convictions of the Spirit in themselves, in their daily course of living, by which they were brought to eschew that which was made manifest to them to be evil, and to do that which he was good, they, in their assembling together, sat down and waited for the preperation of His Holy, both to let them see their own states and conditions before the Lord, and to worship him acceptably; and as they were sensible of wants, or shortness, or infirmities, so in the secret of their own hearts, prayer would spring to God, through Jesus Christ, to help, assist and supply: but they did not dare to awaken

their beloved before his time, or approach the throne of the King of Glory, till he held out his sceptre; or take thought what they should say, or offer their own or other men's studied words or forms; for this were to offer strange fire, &c. So that it is this people's principle, that fire must come from heaven, life and power from God, to enable the soul to prove out itself acceptable before him. And when a coal from His holy altar touches our lips, then can we pray and praise Him as we ought to do."

J. Penington (Works Vol. II. p. 249.) "What is the worship, or what are the sacrifices, which the true worshipers offer up to God in this holy place? — Answer — the gifts of His Spirit. These they offer up, and [illegible]. The [illegible] the child, they are breathed back unto Him in the same spirit of life; in the living sense, in the quickening power. Nothing of man's wisdom, [illegible] that would please the flesh, or seem glorious in its eye, is offered up [illegible] but the exhortations, or directions, or reproofs, that spring up in God's light, in God's wisdom; they are given forth in the leadings, and by the guidance of His Spirit, and they reach to the hearts of those to whom He pleased to direct them. And this is the ground of such meetings, and shakings, and convictions of soul, (and such like inward operations) as are frequently found in such assemblies. For the living God is there, and the dread of His power overspreads the hearts of such as are [illegible] in the name; and the vessels of the Lord are in the vessels, and the Saviour is precious to all that have their spiritual senses."

## Prayer.

T. J. Gurney, (Observations, p. 291, 7th. edit.:) "I cannot, with any show of reason, deny that our Lord's precept respecting our entering into the closet — shutting the door — and praying to our Father, who seeth in secret, is to be understood literally; and therefore such a practice, as far as circumstances allow, is universally incumbent upon Christians. If we would grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, it must be our frequent practice — especially at the commencement and end of each day — to retire into solitude, and there seek for ability to pour out our prayers to the Lord, with a diligent and fervent spirit. Let us guard we be forget, that we may be assisted in the performance of this Christian duty, by kneeling down in a deliberate **and solemn** manner, &c. (p. 292.) "To the occasional use of the prayers which our Lord condescended to recite; for

[illegible] Christian can be a moral object; and I believe that our children ought to be accustomed to it from early life.

(On Love to God, p. 77.) "With respect to our children; more particularly, it is surely our duty, by watchful instruction, and sometimes by uniting with them in their private religious exercises, to train them in the habit of daily prayer – just as we see the parent bird, by frequent example and experiment, teaching and inducing her young ones to use the wings which God has given them!"

Contrast the above with

Robert Barclay, (Apol. Prop. XI. p. 364.) "We find that Jesus Christ, the author of the Christian religion, prescribes no set form to worship to his children. Note: If any object here, that the Lord's Prayer is a prescribed form of prayer, and therefore of worship given by Christ to his children; I answer, first, this cannot be objected by any sort of Christians that I know, because there are none who use not other prayers, or that limit their worship to this. Secondly, this was commanded to the disciples, while yet weak, before they had received the dispensation of the Gospel; not that they should only use it in praying, but that he might show them by one example, how that their prayers ought to be short, and not like the long prayers of the Pharisees. And that this was the use of it, appears by all their prayers, which divers saints after [illegible] where the Scriptures make mention to have made use of this. [illegible] ing as the thing required, and as the spirit gave utterance. Thirdly, that this ought to be so understood, appears from Romans, viii. 26, where the Apostle saith, 'We know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the spirit itself maketh intercession for us,' &c. But if this prayer had been such a prescribed form of prayer to the church, that had not been [illegible] needed the help of the spirit to teach them."

(P. 392,) "Our adversaries, whose religion is all for the most part outside, and such whose acts are the mere product of man's natural will and abilities, as they can preach, so can they pray when they please, and therefore have their set particular prayers. I meddle not with the controversies among themselves concerning this, some of them being for set prayers as a liturgy, others for such as are conceived extempore; it suffices me that all of them agree in this, – that the motions & influence of the spirit of God are not necessary to be previous thereunto; and therefore they have set times in their public worship, as before and after preaching, and in their private devotion, as morning and evening, and

before and after meat, and other such occasions, at which they precisely set about the performing of their prayers, by speaking words to God, whether they feel any motion & influence of the spirit or not; so that some of the [illegible] ... as assistance of the spirit, acknowledging that they sinned in so doing; yet they said they looked upon it as their duty so to do, though to pray without the spirit be sin. We freely confess that prayer is both a very profitable and a necessary duty commanded, and fit to be practised frequently by all Christians; but as we can do nothing without Christ, so neither can we pray without the concurrence and assistance of his Spirit. But that the state of the controversy may be the better understood, let it be considered, first, that prayer is two fold, inward and outward. Inward prayer is that secret turning of the mind towards God, whereby, being secretly touched and awakened by the light of Christ in the conscience, and so turned down under the sense of its iniquities, unworthiness, and misery, it looks up to God, and joining with the secret shinings of the seed of God, it breathes towards him, and is constantly breathing forth the sense secret desires and aspirations towards Him. It is in this sense that we are so frequently in Scripture commanded to pray continually, which cannot be understood of outward prayer, because it were impossible that men should be always upon their knees, expressing words of prayer; and this would hinder them from the exercise of those duties no less positively commanded. Outward prayer is, when as the spirit, being thus in the exercise of inward retirement, and feeling the breathing of the spirit of God to arise powerfully in the soul, receives strength and liberty by a superadded motion & influence to bring forth either audible sighs, groans, or words, and that either in public assemblies, or in private, or at meat, &c. As then inward prayer is necessary at all times, so, so long as the day of every man's visitation lasteth, he never wants some influence, how or more, for the practice of it; because he no sooner retires in his mind, and considers himself in God's presence, but he finds himself in the practise of it. The outward exercise of prayer, as needing a greater and superadded influence and motion of the spirit, as it cannot be continually practised, so neither can it be so readily, so as to be effectually performed, until his mind be some time acquainted with the inward." &c. (p. 307.) "If any man know not how to pray, neither can do it without the help of the spirit, then it is to no purpose for him, but altogether unprofitable, to pray without it."

S. Purington ("Works, Vol. I. p. 21.:) "Mark; all prayer

and supplication must be in the Spirit; for it must be always in the spirit, which speaks in the heart to God, and makes the intercession, or it is no prayer. If a man speak ever so much from his own spirit, with ever so much earnestness and affection, yet it is no prayer, no true prayer; but only so far as the Spirit moves to it, and so far as the Spirit leads and guides in it."

## Resurrection.

T. T. Stenney (Canons, p. 131:) "With respect to the impenitent and wicked, their state during the separate state, is described as one of pain or punishment. &c."

(p. 141.) "He [man] has within him a never dying spirit; and even that part of him which is destined to moulder in the grave, will in the end be found the seed of a spiritual body, and shall be clothed with the incorruption and immortality

(Scalable Evidences, p. 151.) "Evil relates to the faithful followers of Christ, the resurrection of the body clearly forms a part of the scheme of redemption. It is represented in Scripture as the last step to the fullness of their happiness." &c.

Contrast this with

George Fox. (Doctrinal Works, p. 166:) "Do not this your condition; that make such a work about the body of Christ, and with what bodies people shall be raised up; and the Apostle saith to such: "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened except it die; and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be." So he tells here plainly it is not the same, and calls thee a fool that questionest. If thou sowest wheat or other corn, tell the husbandman answer thee in this."

(p. 167.) "And the apostle further saith, 'Behold I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed.' Mark — be changed. So not the same: which the husbandman will teach thee."

(p. 946.) "And Christ saith, 'Verily I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die it [illegible]' So man in his [illegible] whether wheat or other seed, he soweth — mark — he soweth not that body that shall be; but God giveth it a body as it pleaseth Him, and to every seed its own body." &c.

Wm. Penn (Testimony to the Truth of God; Works, Vol. 3. p. 523:) "Because from the authority of Holy Scripture, as well as right reason, we deny the resurrection of the same gross and

corruptible body, and are neither over inquisitive nor critical about what bodies we shall have at the resurrection, leaving it to the Lord, to give us such bodies as he pleases, (and with that we are well pleased and satisfied, and wish all others were so too;) from hence we are made not only deniers of the resurrection of any body at all, however spiritual or glorified, but eternal rewards too."

Defence of Gospel Truths, Works, Vol. 3. p. 549.:) "Herein it is we are cautious, and tread softly, remembering what the apostle says of the curious and inquisitive [illegible], "But [illegible] I say, how are the dead raised up, and with what bodies do they come? Thou fool, thou sowest not that body which shall be, but bare grain. But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed its own body." Here is the ground of our caution, which the bishop is pleased to call suppression, and others, denying of the resurrection. We have indeed been negative to the gross conceit of people concerning the rising of this carnal body we carry about with us, which better agrees with the Koran of Mahomet, than the Gospel of Christ; but that there is a resurrection of the just and unjust to rewards and punishments, we have ever believed. Bodies we shall have, but not the same, says the apostle, and so believes the Quaker."

## Mr. Hanbury.

J. J. Gurney. (Essay on Love to God, p. 16:) "Behold the glorious partner of the Father's throne, freely opening his bosom to the darts of his wrath, groaning and bleeding on the cross." &c.

(p. 13.) "Let us call to mind, that in that hour of unutterable desertion, the righteous vengeance of God, against a guilty world, was poured forth upon the innocent substitute."

How does this agree with the text, "God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son," &c. — Or with the following extract from a "Gospel Salutation," &c., by

George Whitehead. "Surely we, believing in God, who gave his dear son for our redemption and salvation, we ought also to believe in his son, as our great Mediator and Advocate with the Father: considering also that Christ Jesus, his being given unto us, as our Mediator between God and men; and his giving himself a ransom for all men, for a testimony in due time; and his dying for all men, his tasting death for every man; &c., did all proceed from the great love of God, and not to pay a strict or rigid satisfaction for vindictive justice, or revenge on God's part; for that would leave no place to

forgiveness of sins past, before repentance and faith in Christ and his Gospel; seeing the good will and blessed design of God, nothing [illegible] to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God, whose blood cries for mercy: surely that righteousness, and forbearance of God, declared by the propitiatory sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the remission or forgiveness of sins that are past, upon true repentance, cannot justly be deemed revenge or vindictive justice; as some have asserted against us; but a free act of the love and wisdom of God, to give his Son, and in him to [illegible] past to them, when thoroughly reconciled and united in heart and soul unto him, by his grace and good Spirit." (Evans Exposition, p. 79.)

## Of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

J. J. Gurney (Essays, pp. 107, 109.:) "The very pointed allusions made by our Saviour to the personality of the Holy Spirit, are in exact accordance with the mode of expression which was often adopted, in relation to the same subject, by his inspired disciples. From various passages in the Book of Acts, and the Epistles, we can scarcely do otherwise than deduce the inference, that these servants of the Lord regarded the Holy Spirit as one possessing personal powers, and requiring a personal allegiance."

(Ibid. p. 111.) "Such is the scriptural evidence of which we are in possession, that the Father is God, that the Son is God, that the Holy Spirit is God. Having considered this evidence, we may now proceed to take a view of some additional passages in the New Testament, in which the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, are daily in their distinctive and separable individuality, sources of the Christian's help and consolation, the invited presented to our attention as the united objects of the Christian's belief and obedience. This description is indeed applicable to the passages already cited from the Gospel of John, in relation to the personality of the Holy Ghost," &c.

(Essays, pp. 112, 113.) "In order to obtain a just and comprehensive view of the whole subject, (as far as it is revealed to us) it is necessary also to advert to the order of that relation in which they are represented as standing one towards another. The Father is the first; the Son is the second; the Holy Spirit is the third. The Son is subordinate to the Father, because he is of the Father — the only begotten Son of God. The Holy Spirit is subordinate to the Father and the Son, because he

is the Father and the Son; see Matt. iii. 16. and Romans, viii. 9. The Father and the Son. The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, John xv. 1

(Ibid, p. 113.) "The Holy Spirit is the operative power, through whom the Father and the Son carry on the work of mercy, and exercise their dominion of the souls of men. It is He who enlightens, converts, renews, consoles, and purifies the heirs of salvation. The Father is, in the deepest and most comprehensive sense of the expressions, the Creator — the Son, — the Redeemer — the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier. The Father originates, the Son mediates, the Holy Spirit consummates.

(Ibid. p. 303.) [illegible] sacred Volume, he [an honest enquirer after truth] is led to take a view, first, of the natural and moral attributes of the Supreme Being; secondly, of the personality and unity, in Nine, of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit," &c.

(Portable Evidences, p. 71. Boston edit. 1833.) "When our Saviour was about to quit this lower world, he commanded his disciples to go and teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; from which expressions we learn that those servants of God were to baptize their converts into that faith, of which the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, are the inseparable objects. For since it cannot for a moment be imagined that a mere attribute or influence could be presented to us, as a joint object of our faith with the Father and the Son, this passage must be regarded as containing a clear evidence of the personality of the Spirit."

Compare the foregoing with

George Fox: "And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth; for there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one; and there are three which beareth record in earth, &c. 1 John v. 6, 7. — And now let none be offended, because we do not call them by their unscriptural names of Trinity, and Three Persons, which are not scripture words." — See Cross Exposition, pp. 2, 3.

Barclay (ibid. p. 5.) "Again, according to his [Brown's] system; though secundum the Scriptures, he will be insinuating that I agree with him: to whose notions of the Spirit, albeit I assent not, yet I desire to know of him, in what Scripture he finds these words that the Spirit is a distinct person of the Trinity."

William Penn (ibid. p. 7.) "But they are very desirous of [illegible] Scripture terms and phrases for sacraments and [illegible]

and seperate persons and subsistences, &c. are from whence people are apt to entertain gross ideas of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

S. Pennington (ibid. p. 16.) "That there are 'three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit;' that these three are distinct, as three several beings or Persons; this they read not; but in the same place, they read 'they are one'."

Francis Howgill (ibid. p. 12.) "First, concerning the Trinity, thou sayest, they confess the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and yet they deny the Trinity, and those to be three distinct persons; for confutation of this, thou bringest Heb. i. 3— 'He is the express image of his Father's person.'"

"Thy Trinity is an old Popish term, and we love to keep to sound words; but by Trinity, I suppose thou meanest three; and thy own words shall confute thee. Thou confessest we say, there is Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and yet but one God, or one eternal being or substance, in which they all subsist; but thy word distinct is thy own, and not the Spirit's; yet to distinguish between Father, Son, and Spirit, we deny not: and as for Heb. i. 3, [illegible] express image of his substance, for Person is too gross a word to express an Eternal and Divine Being in; and if thou dost hold three distinct substances, [illegible] three Gods."

William Shandley, Alexander Pyott, Jos. Hodges, and others (ibid. p. 17.) "We believe that great mystery, that there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and that these three are one being and substance."

R. Claridge (ibid. p. 24.) "Therefore in this, and all other articles of faith and doctrines of religion, in command to be believed, in order to eternal salvation, let not the opinions, explications, or conceptions of men which are often dubious, various, or erroneous, be esteemed a rule or standard, but let every one rely on the divine testimony of the Holy Scriptures, which declare that God is one, and that there is none other besides Him; and that the One God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; or, as it is expressed, 1 John v. 7— 'The Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.'"

"And as we distinguish between a Scripture Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, which we unfeignedly believe; and that humanly devised Trinity of three distinct, and seperate persons, which we receive not, because the Holy Scriptures make no mention of it." ✶

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✶ [illegible]

## Moral Sense, Etc.

[illegible] (Essays, p. 360.) [illegible] may be without difficulty allowed, that these observations are in a general, yet very important sense, applicable to all men, whether they are partakers in the benefit of an outward revelation, or are left to that which is usually denominated as the light of nature. If we admit that mankind, without an outward revelation, are nevertheless sinners, we must also admit that mankind, without such a revelation, are nevertheless in the possession of the law of God; for we are expressly told by one apostle, that 'where no law is, there is no transgression;' (Rom. iv. 15.) and by another, that sin is the transgression of the law; (1 John iii. 4.) declarations which obviously correspond with the dictates of sound reason!"

"The law to which I now allude, and which is universally bestowed upon men, is that moral sense of right and wrong, by which the natural conscience is directed and illuminated, and which [illegible] operation of vice, it never fails to bear witness." *

[illegible] (Strictures on "Truth Vindicated," p. 25.) "To denominate our moral conscience a law, as does this author in the last mentioned extract, involves the danger of a very fatal heresy; it obviously tends to divest him of his personality, and to convert him into a principle."

"In the meantime, the author of Truth Vindicated, does not hesitate to insinuate that without any instruction whatsoever in Christianity, every creature under heaven may have the saving knowledge of the 'gospel of life and salvation through Jesus Christ!'"...

(Essays, p. 361.) "Prone to iniquity, and transgressors from

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* [illegible] may be inferred from the following extract, taken [illegible] Foster's Reports, Volume 1. p. 292.

Cross-Examination of Thomas Evans.

Question." If you hold that there is no contrariety of will in them, do you hold that they are, in any manner, distinct?"

Answer." We have always denied that the Deity consisted of distinct and seperate persons: and while we have believed that there were three, have as uniformly maintained that those three are One".

Counsel." The question is not fully answered."

Witness. "If the Counsel will explain [illegible] the term distinct, as used in the question, I will endeavour to answer it further."

Counsel. The question is, Do you hold that they are in any manner distinct?"

Witness." I have already stated that the doctrine of [illegible] to believe that there are distinct and seperate persons in the Godhead; and have answered him in scripture terms as regards what the doctrine is." &c. &c.

the womb, we are alienated from God, who is the source of all happiness and, in the world to come, eternal separation from him, and, therefore, eternal misery is the consequence of our evil doings.

(Portable Evidences, p. 163.) "In himself indeed, as a transgressor from his birth, he is vile and polluted; but by the blood of Jesus sprinkled on his heart, his conscience is purged from every dead work; and having obtained an interest in the Saviour of men, he wears a robe of righteousness in which there is no spot."

Compare the above with

Robert Barclay (Apol. Prop. V. and VI. p. 177.) "And certainly hence it is, even because this light, seed and grace, that appears in the heart of man is so little regarded, and so much overlooked, that so few know Christ brought forth in them."

(p. 178.) "Some will have it to be reason; some, a natural conscience; some, certain reliques of God's image that remained in Adam. So that Christ, as He met with opposition from all kinds of professors in his outward appearance, doth now also in the inward."

(ibid. p. 182.) "He [the saving grace] testifies that it is no natural principle or light, but saith plainly, it brings salvation."

(ibid. Prop. XI. p. 382.) "For we must cease to do evil, ere we learn to do well; and this meddling in things spiritual by man's own natural understanding, is one of the greatest and most dangerous evils that man is incident to; being that which occasioned our first parents' fall, to wit, a forwardness to desire to know things, and a meddling with them, [illegible] to the Lord's command."

(ibid Prop. IV. p. 95.) "Nevertheless, this seed is not imputed to infants, until by transgression they actually join themselves therewith; for they are by nature the children of wrath, who walk according to the power of the prince of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience; having their conversation in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and the mind."

(ibid p. 104.) "Than which testimonies there is nothing more positive; since to infants there is no law, seeing as such they are utterly incapable of it; the law cannot reach any but such as have in some measure less or more the exercise of their understanding, which the infants have not."

Phipps (Original and Present State of Man, p. 32.)

All the personal instructions and writings of the prophets, apostles, and their contemporaries, taken in their full extent, have never been any thing near so universal amongst mankind as this grace

and power of God; for it always hath been, and is present to every rational creature in all ages and times of the world."

## The Anointing — Christ in Man.

W. J. Evans (Pittsburgh, Pa.) writes:

"I cannot but object to the doctrine that Christ is the Anointing. Truly he is the Anointed of the Father, and the Anointer of his own people; but who on that account would think of identifying him with the Anointing? That is, with the enlightening, qualifying influence of the Holy Spirit?"

"This position is based on a highly important passage in the Epistle of Paul to the Colossians, where he speaks of the 'mystery which hath been hid from ages and generations, but now is made manifest unto the saints,' to whom he adds, God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is 'Christ in you the hope of glory,' Col. i. 26. The words 'Christ in you,' are often quoted by mistake, as 'Christ within;' and [illegible] as a reference to the light of the Spirit of Christ in the heart — a view which some have imagined to be supported by the apostle's treating the whole subject as a 'mystery.' Hence it necessarily follows, that the light of the Spirit of Christ in the heart, is the same as Christ himself, and is represented as the hope of glory. The plain fact, however, appears to be, that the mystery of which the apostle is speaking, is that of the incarnation of the Son of God, a subject which had indeed been typically shadowed forth to the Jews, but had been wholly concealed from the Gentiles; kept secret since the world began, but was now made known to the saints (1 Tim. iii. 16.) 'And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.' So soon did the Gentiles, by living faith, accept the Saviour, who was thus preached unto them; no sooner did they receive him into their hearts, that he might rule them by his Spirit, than Christ was in them the hope of glory, Eph. iii. 17, 'That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;' and 2 Cor. xiii. 5, 'Know ye not your ownselves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?' So also John vi. 56, 'He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me and I in him;' John xvii. 26, 'That the love wherewith thou hast loved me, may be in them and I in them.'"

"The true view of this subject, and in particular of the passage

unwritten from Colossians, is tricky but happily stated in the Gener-
al Epistle from our last yearly Meeting: "As the Holy Spirit instru-
mits our hearts, and enlightens our understandings, we are brought
to a lively apprehension of the character and offices of the Messiah, and
Christ received by faith into the soul, and, ruling there by his Spirit,
becomes our sure and only hope of glory." Here then is a full testimony
to vital, practical, inward religion, but no mysticism. These mis-
takes, especially John i. 9 and Col. i. 26–28, have often been made by
persons who cordially accept the Lord Jesus Christ in all his gracious
union, both as God and man."

"Thus the errors themselves have naturally enough been suffered
to pass with but little notice. But with some who have seceded
from us, during the last thirty years, the more gaining and
tremendous process is heresy, by which the Eternal Word, or Son of God,
is gradually converted into a mere influence and finally becomes
nothing at all but a seed sown in the hearts of all men."

Contrast the above with

Barclay (Apology, p. 52:) "The apostle proposeth this as a=
nointing in them, as a more certain touch-stone for them to discern

(pp. 131, 130.) "But we understand a spiritual, heavenly,
and invisible principle, in which God, as Father, Son, and Spirit dwells;
a measure of which divine and glorious life is in all men as a seed,
which of its own nature draws, invites, and inclines to God; and this,
some call vehiculum Dei, or the spiritual body of Christ, the flesh and
blood of Christ, which came down from heaven, of which all the minds
do feed, and are thereby nourished unto eternal life."

"And as this seed is received in the heart, and suffered to
bring forth its natural and proper effect, Christ comes to be formed,
raised, of which the Scripture makes so much mention, naming it
the new man, Christ within, the hope of glory. This is that Christ
within, which we are heard so much to speak and declare of, every-
where preaching him up, and exhorting people to believe in the light,
and obey it, that they may come to know Christ in them, to deliver
them from all sin."

"But by this, as we do not at all intend to equal ourselves
to that holy man, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin
Mary, in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwelt bodily, so neither
do we destroy the reality of his present existence, as some have falsely cal-
umniated us. For though we affirm that Christ dwells in us, yet

not immediately, but mediately, as he is in that seed which is in us; whereas he, to wit, the Eternal Word, which was with God, and was God, was immediately in and to man.

"We understand not this seed, light, or grace, to be an accident, as most men ignorantly do, but a real spiritual substance, which the soul of man is capable to feel and apprehend; from which that real, spiritual, inward birth in believers arises, called the new creature, the new man in the heart. This seems strange to carnal-minded men, because they are not acquainted with it: but we know it, and are [illegible] by true and certain experience."

(pp. 142, 143, 144.) "We have said before, how that a divine, spiritual, and supernatural light is in all men; how that that divine, supernatural light or seed, is verbum Dei; how that God and Christ dwelleth in it, and is never seperated from it; also how that as it is received and closed within the heart, Christ comes to be formed and brought forth; but we are far from ever having said, that Christ is thus formed in all men, or in the wicked; for that is a great attainment, which the apostle travailed that it might be brought [illegible]."

"But in regard Christ is in all men as in a seed, yea, and that he never is nor can be seperate from that rule, pure seed, and light which is in all men; therefore may it be said, in a larger sense, that he is in all," &c.

"And forasmuch as Christ is called that light that en[illegible] in the seed, wherein the light is taken for Christ, who dwells in the fountain of light, and hath his habitation in it forever."

"Thus the light of Christ is sometimes called Christ, i.e. that in which Christ is, and from which he is never seperated."

## The Seed.

J. J. Gurney (Brief Remarks, p. 11.:) "That this parable (of the mustard seed) was intended to set forth the small beginnings of Christianity in the world [illegible] can scarcely be doubted by any sober commentator; and we may freely allow that it also bears an allusion to the growth in grace of the individual believer in Jesus; — but that the mustard seed is here equivalent to [illegible] an inward appearance to the soul, is surely a notion, without the smallest foundation either in reason or scripture. The seed which the sower went forth to sow, in another parable, is explained

of our Lord as signifying the word of divine truth as it is preached and heard. It cannot therefore signify Christ, who in his character of a prophet, or preacher, is represented as the sower; and equally obvious is it, that it cannot be identical (as some persons appear to imagine) with the light of the Spirit of Christ in the hearts of all men."

"The influence of the Holy Spirit, through which the believer is born again, may probably be represented by the term 'seed'. In 1 Peter, i. 2, 3, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever; and this seed abiding in the heart of the believer, appears to be spoken of under the same term in 1 John iii. 9: "Whomsoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God'."

Contrast with

George Fox (Sewell's History, Vol. II. p. 191 Philadelphia edit.:) "All is well, the seed of God reigns over all, and over death itself." "And though," continued he, "I am weak in body, yet the power of God is over all, and the Lord reigns over all disorderly spirits." "He used often, even in his preaching, when he spoke of Christ, to call Him the Seed; therefore, those that were with him very well knew what he meant when he spoke of the 'Seed'." . . . .

"Again, about four or five hours before his death, being asked how he did; he answered, 'Do not heed, the power of the Lord is above all sickness and death; the Seed reigns, blessed be the Lord!'"

## Of the Body & Blood of Christ.

J. J. Gurney (Brief Remarks, p. 13.:) After commenting at large on John vi. he says— "Hence it follows, that the bread which Christ gives us to eat is his flesh, which he offered upon the cross for the sins of the whole world. As eating the bread of life is identical with believing in Christ, the incarnate Son of God, so eating his flesh is identical with such a belief in him as is especially directed to his atoning sacrifice."

"Our Lord's meaning becomes yet more indisputable, when he pursues his use of this expressive figure, and adds to the eating of his flesh, the drinking of his blood: 'Verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him', verse, 53–56. That the flesh & blood of Christ are here spoken of in relation to his incarnation and atoning

sacrifice, is made abundantly clear by the comparison of all the other passages in the New Testament, and especially in the writings of this apostle, in which mention is made of that flesh or of that blood."

"These passages are numerous; and on a careful examination of them, it will be found that the flesh always means his human body — that body which was born, died, and rose again — and that his blood always means his very blood, which was his natural life, and which was naturally shed on the cross for the remission of sin."

Contrast with

Barclay (Apology. p. 116.:) "The body then of Christ, which he is now partaker of in spiritual and not carnal; and the blood, which we drink of, is pure and heavenly, and not human or elementary, as Augustine also affirms of the body of Christ, which is calves, in his Tractat. Psalm 98. Except a man eat my flesh, he hath not in him life eternal: and he saith, The words which I speak unto you are spirit and life; understand spiritually what I have spoken. Ye shall not eat of this body which ye see, and drink this blood which they shall spill, which crucify me — I am the living bread which have descended from heaven. He calls himself the bread, who descended from heaven, exhorting that we might [illegible] in him," &c.

"If it be asked then, What that body, what that flesh & blood is? I answer; It is that heavenly seed, that divine, spiritual, celestial substance, of which we spake before in the fifth and sixth propositions. This is that spiritual body of Christ, whereby and through which he communicateth life to men, and salvation to as many as believe in him, and receive him; and whereby also man comes to have fellowship and communion with God."

## Miscellaneous Extracts.

T. J. Gurney (Portable Evidences, pp. 109, 110.:) "Moral as we are by the Author of our being with a moral principle, it is impossible for us to conceive that God will reward and punish mankind in a future world, by any other than the moral rule. We should be utterly at a loss to account for the contrary, which would be directly opposed to that sense of right and wrong, which He has so graciously interwoven with our very nature." (Ibid. p. 123.) "All men have sinned against the law of God, as it is written on their hearts; and those on whom the Scriptures are bestowed [illegible] as it is more largely unfolded in the sacred volume."

(Ibid. pp. 121, 122.:) Now, where but in the sacred writings,

shall we look for a full account of the holiness and comprehensiveness of the law of God? There, but in them, shall we learn the lesson of its purity and completeness; of its spiritual and searching nature, of its divine control, not only over our words and actions, but over our thoughts, motives and dispositions?"

(Note at bottom of page 21, of strictures on "Smith Vindicated.") "Had R. Barclay lived to witness the result of the labours of many eminent biblical critics, during the last 150 years, he would have entertained a higher view than he appears to have done, of the substantial correctness of the text of the Old and New Testaments."

(Portable Evidences, p. 169.) "I now perceive that in the agreement between the law written on the heart, and the law written in the book, and in the extention of the latter beyond the natural limits of the former, we have two distinct evidences that the Scriptures are the word of God."

(Misinterpretations of Scripture as published in the Inquirer, Vol. I. No. 7, p. 195.) "The idea was at one time rather prevalent among the members of our Society, that when the Apostle used the term 'a more sure word of prophecy' he was alluding not to any word written, but to that Divine illumination or influence which the prophets were inspired and which guides the Christian believers 'into all truth.' Such a view of the passage is, indeed, but seldom insisted upon at the present day; but as it is sometimes advanced, I think it right to acknowledge my own sentiment, that it is at variance with the simplicity which we ought always to maintain in the perusal and interpretation of the Sacred writings. That the word made 'prophet' was that of Scripture in general is evident from the immediate context, in which the Apostle distinguishes the word from the day star in the heart, and at the same time identifies it (as I conceive) with prophecy of the Scripture."

(Ibid. p. 191.) "The misinterpretation which I wish to notice is, that of several writers who appear to suppose that because Christ is called the light, (i.e. the enlightener,) he is therefore to be identified with the influence which he bestows; in short, that the light of the Spirit of God in the heart of man is itself actually Christ. The obvious tendency of this mistake is, to deprive the Saviour of his personal attributes, and to reduce Him to the rank of a principle."

(Ibid. p. 194.) "It is unquestionably our duty to exercise diligence and care, in order to obtain a right understanding of the word of man: for this, like every other book, must be interpreted in accordance with the known principles of language, and not without reference to innumerable facts and circumstances which throw light on its meaning."

Contrast these sentiments with

Penington (Works, Part I. p. 8.:) "But poor man having lost the life, what should he do? he can do no other, but cry up the letter, and make as good shift with it as he can, though his soul the meanwhile is starved, and lies in famine and death for want of the bread of life, and a worse thing is fed."

Geo. Fox (Journal, Vol. I. p. 32.:) "He [the Priest] took for his text these words of Peter," We have also a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the day star arise in your hearts.' He told the people this was the Scriptures, by which they were to try all doctrines, religions and opinions. Now the Lord's power was so mighty upon me, and so strong in me, that I could not hold; but was made to cry out, 'Oh! no; it is not the Scriptures;' and told them it was the Holy Spirit, by which the holy men of God gave forth the Scriptures, whereby opinions, religions, and judgments were to be tried; for it led into all truth, and so gave the knowledge of all truth. The Jews had the Scriptures, yet resisted the Holy Ghost, and rejected Christ, the bright morning star. They persecuted him and his Apostles, and took upon them to try their doctrines by the Scriptures, but erred in judgment, and did not try them rightly, because they tried without the Holy Ghost."

Barclay (Apology, p. 117.:) "So we confess also, that conscience is an excellent thing, where it is rightly informed & enlightned — wherefore some of us have fitly compared it to the lanthern, and the light of Christ to a candle; a lanthern is useful, when a clear candle burns and shines in it; but otherwise is of no use. To the light of Christ then in the conscience, and not to man's natural conscience, it is that we continually commend men; that, not this is it that we preach up, and direct people to, as a most certain guide into life eternal. Lastly, this light, seed, &c., appears to be no power or natural faculty of man's mind; because a man that is in health can, when he pleases, stir up, move, and exercise the faculties of his soul; he is absolute master of them; and except there be some natural cause or impediment in the way, he can use them at his pleasure; but this light and seed of God in man, he cannot move and stir up when he pleaseth, but it moves, blows, and strives with man, as the Lord seeth meet."

Geo. Fox (Journal, Vol. I. p. 111.) "I was sent to turn people from darkness to the light, that they might receive Christ Jesus; for to as many as should receive him in his light, I saw he would give power to become the sons of God; which I had obtained by receiving Christ.

I was to direct the people to the Spirit, that gave forth the Scriptures, by which they might be led up to all truth, and up to Christ and God, as those had been who gave them forth. I was to turn them to the grace of God, and to the truth in the heart, which came by Jesus; that by this grace they might be taught, which would bring them salvation, that their hearts might be established by it, their words might be seasoned, and all might come to know their salvation nigh. I saw that Christ died for all men, was a propitiation for all, and enlightened all men and women with his divine and saving light; and that none could be true believers, but those that believed therein. I saw that the grace of God, which brings salvation, had appeared to all men, and that the manifestation of the Spirit of God was given to every man, to profit withal. These things I did not see by the help of man, nor by the letter; though they are written in the letter; but I saw them in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by his immediate spirit and power, as did the holy men of God by whom the Holy Scriptures were written."

(Ibid. p. 212.) "Another time, this priest came to meeting, and fell to jangling. First, he said, 'The Scriptures were the words of God.' I told him, they were the words of God, but not Christ, the word; and bid him prove by scripture what he said."

J. J. Gurney (Brief Remarks, p. 15.) "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them who look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. Heb. ix. 27, 28. It is generally allowed and I think it is very obvious that the second appearing of Christ, here mentioned is nothing more nor less than his future coming in glory, to judge the quick and dead."

Discipline of New England Yearly Meeting, p. 71. "We earnestly recommend and enjoin upon Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, and upon all faithful Friends, to be watchful over our members, as it regards the profession of their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, both as to his outward coming in the flesh," &c.—"and to his Spiritual appearance in the heart; for 'unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation.'"

J. Pennington says, "Now mark, see if this be not a clear thing, He that giveth any other meaning of any Scripture, than what is the true, proper meaning thereof, he both addeth and diminisheth; he takes away the true sense, [illegible] The spirit of the Lord is the true expositor of Scripture, he never addeth nor diminisheth: but man (being without the Spirit) doth but guess at

doth but imagine, doth but study or invent a meaning, and so he is ever adding or diminishing."

J. J. Gurney (Concluding Paragraph of "Brief Remarks,")

"Were I required to define Quakerism, I would not describe it as the system so elaborately wrought out by a Barclay, or as the doctrine & maxims of a Penn, or as the deep and refined views of a Pennington; for all these authors have their defects as well as their excellencies; I should call it the religion of the New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; without diminution; without addition, and without compromise."

That worthy Friend, John Banks, towards the close of life, wrote an essay, entitled, "A testimony concerning my faith in Christ" - a production worthy the perusal of all those who desire to become acquainted with the primitive faith of the Society of Friends. It is as follows: -

"I believe in that same Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, for the remission of sins, and the salvation of my soul; even he, which was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, who made a good confession before Pontius Pilate, and was crucified without the gates of Jerusalem; dead and buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended into glory, far above all heavens, that he might fill all things, according to the testimony of the Holy Scriptures, for which I have a godly and reverend esteem:

"I also believe in him as to his appearing the second time without sin unto salvation to all that look for him, by his living and [illegible] Spirit in their [illegible], which is what cannot come as when he prayed unto the Father that he would send the Comforter, that did and doth lead into all truth, all that have and do believe in him thereby.

"Even as when it pleased the Lord to visit me with the day-spring of his love from on high, in the days of my youth, by this Spirit of life and truth, sin and Satan were manifested; and if at any time I was prevailed upon by entering into any of his temptations, I was reproved and judged thereby:

"But when faith was begotten in my heart to believe in the spirit of truth that reproved me, I received power from Him in whom I did and do believe, to overcome one sin after another in order to a perfect freedom from it, which must be in this life, or else no entering into the kingdom of heaven. For all who live and die in sin, are unclean, and therefore cannot enter the kingdom. -

" This is the blessed effect of the faith of every true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, as to his birth, suffering, resurrection, ascension and second coming without sin unto salvation, in whom all must believe for life and salvation to their souls, whoever come to know the full assurance thereof in the kingdom of happiness and endless glory.

" I believe in him and own him in all his offices, and under every name and denomination which is given to him in the Holy Scriptures. I own him as King, even King of saints, and Lord of life and glory; High Priest of the profession of all that were, and are, in and of the true faith, God's covenant of light and life; Emmanuel, God with us, who is come to save his people from their sins, (not in their sins,) there is no being saved therein, which is in the fallen and lost state and condition.

" I own and believe in him, as he is the true light, that enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world. I own and believe in him thereby to be the way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no man comes to the Father but by him.

" I believe in him, as he is the minister of the sanctuary and true tabernacle which God hath pitched and not man, & he, by his power and spirit, hath filled and made many able and faithful ministers in this, the day of his everlasting gospel, among whom he hath been pleased to account me worthy to be one; though one of the least of many. He is the Minister of ministers, and none are, or can be, true ministers, but who are made so and ordained by Him. He fits, opens and prepares by his power, light, life and quickening spirit. So the ministers of Christ preach him for the way, the truth and the life; the true light; the door, the true shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep, and saves by his grace all true believers therein; who obey the teachings thereof.

" He is also believed in and known by his second coming to be the engrafted Word that is able to save the soul, who took flesh, and suffered in it, the one offering once for all, to put an end to sin and finish transgression, and bring in everlasting righteousness: the fulfiller, the finisher, and end of the law, with all the types, figures and shadows of it, the end of tythes, swearing, simple worship, outward circumcision, offerings and oblations, the end, finisher, and fulfiller of water baptism and outward communion, by eating of bread and drinking of wine. He, the great baptizer, having baptized many by his spirit into one body, of which He is the head, which is that one baptism with the Holy Ghost and fire — and so join with his water baptism is decreased and ended.

" And He is the one bread of life, come down from God out of heaven, which is eaten of by faith whose flesh is meat indeed, and

and his blood is drink indeed. He the living substance is come and fed upon; that was and is the communion of saints.

"This being the substance of the testimony in brevity of my faith in Christ, which I am willing to leave behind me, when I have finished the work of my day, and am gathered to my everlasting rest, which I have long travailed for, through many, various and deep exercises; and that not only for myself, but I was willing to leave this upon record on the behalf of my friends and brethren also, the people of God in scorn called Quakers, who are of the same faith in Christ with me.

"That all may know who have desire to have a right understanding of our faith and principles, that we are no such people, as to our faith in Christ; as some ignorantly, and others hatefully, have rendered us, as though we only or wholly depended upon the light within for salvation to our souls; and did not own or believe in Christ as to his coming, death, resurrection, ascension, &c., and the benefit we and all true believers have thereby.

"But blessed, praised and magnified be the worthy name of the Lord our God forever, who hath opened and cleared our understandings, by his power, whereby we know him in whom we do believe, which is not to believe in the Light within distinct from Christ — or as if people could believe in the Light and not in Christ. But we believe in both as one; knowing and being clear in our understanding, that no seperation can be made betwixt Christ and the Light that comes from Him, which shines in the hearts of all true believers; and shines in the darkness of unbelievers, and therefore the darkness cannot comprehend it. So we as truly believe in that same Christ, who laid down his body and took it up again, as well as in his light within, and we have benefit to salvation by the one, as well as the other; and of both; they being one, and are willing to lay hold of every help and means [which] God, in and through Jesus Christ has ordained for our salvation." (Evans' Exposition, pp. 193–196.)

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"To the brief account we have given of the disorder, confusion, and repeated violations of the Discipline, which followed the introduction of the unsound writings of Joseph John Gurney, on the part of those who have been sorrowfully engaged in that work, much more might have been added. And so in regard to the extracts from his (J. J. G.'s) writings. But enough has been adduced to show

the gross dependance of the leaders in this schism from our doctrines, discipline and practice. And, as much labour has been extended to convince and reclaim them, without producing the desired effect, we, as in duty bound, for the testimonies sake; and in order that those grevious offences and reproaches of spiritual wickedness in high places may be removed from the Church, and that peace and Gospel order may be restored in this Yearly Meeting and all its dependencies; declare them to be seperatists, and out of unity with the body of Society of Friends, such as we cannot hold communion or fellowship with.

[illegible] to invite all those who make a profession of the Truth under our name; in this time of great commotion, to centre more and more to the unerring witness and gift of Divine Light and grace within themselves, which never will deceive those that faithfully follow its leadings. Thus shall we know more & more of an establishment on that Rock on which the true Church of Christ is builded, and against which the gates of hell shall never be suffered to prevail. May none of our dear friends be discouraged in view of the great sufferings which a faithful adherence to the Truth may bring upon them [illegible] promised by our Holy Redeemer to those who are willing joyfully to suffer for His sake, and to sacrifice near and dear things for His cause, may we all look to Him who remains to be the helper of His people, with earnest desires for preservation.

And, as in the integrity of our hearts this is the case, although in His inscrutable wisdom He may permit us to be sorely tried, even to an hairs breadth, both for our furtherance in the ever blessed Truth and the advancement of His own glorious cause in the earth, yet as we abide in the everlasting patience, we shall know the angel of his presence to go with us, and to be permitted to enjoy the reward of that inward peace & satisfaction, which the mere dweller in the outward court may talk of, but never can possess. "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever." Amen.

Signed by direction, and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.
Martha S. Gould, Clerk.

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England held on Rhode Island, beginning with Public meetings for Worship at Newport on First day the 14th of Sixth Month 1846; and on Second day morning, the 15th for Discipline.—

Accounts have been received from Rhode-Island, Salem, Sandwich and Dover Quarterly Meetings — the Friends therein named as representatives to this meeting, are, from Rhode Island; Henry Gould, John Wilbur, Othniel Foster, Oliver Chase, John J. Kenyon, Palmer Chace, Harvey Chace and John Mitchell; — from Salem, William B. Oliver, Jonathan Nichols 2nd, Bullum, Ezekiel Roberts and George F. Read; — from Sandwich, Prince Gardner, Seth Davis, Francis Taber, Laban Paddock, Job Eddy, James L. Peckham, Peleg Mitchell Benjamin Tucker and William Howland; — from Dover William Hill, Aaron Varney, Joseph Meader, Joshua Meader and Pelatiah Hussey; whose names being called they are all present except two, for whose absence satisfactory reasons were assigned.

No account has been received at this time from either Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalborough or Fairfield Quarterly Meetings.

A minute of North Carolina Yearly Meeting with a report of a Committee which it had appointed in relation to their reception of our Epistle of last year and also a minute of New York Yearly Meeting in regard to the same subject having been read in this meeting. They are referred to our Friends Francis Taber, Prince Gardner, Henry Gould, Peleg Mitchell, John Wilbur, George F. Read, William Hill, Jonathan Nichols, Nathan Page, John Boadle, Harvey Chace, Pelatiah Hussey, Thomas P. Nichols,

Ethan Foster Isaac Fisk, Charles Perry, James T. Peckham 5th Paris Thomas B. Gould, George W. Eddy, Christopher C. Hussey, Israel Buffington, James Austin Valentine Meader, Joseph Meader, William B. Oliver and Francis Taber Junr, whom we appoint to consider them and report what disposition shall be made of them:— The same Friends are also requested if way should open for it, to prepare and produce at a future sitting or sittings, essays of Epistles to those Yearly Meetings with which we have usually corresponded, as heretofore.—

The representatives are requested to confer together and propose to the next sitting the name of a Friend to serve this meeting as Clerk, and one for Assistant Clerk the present year.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon: Friends again assembled pursuant to adjournment.

Prince Gardner on behalf of the Representatives reported, that they had conferred together and were united in proposing Thomas B. Gould for Clerk and Charles Perry for Assistant Clerk of this meeting for the ensuing year; whose names being severally considered and approved by the meeting they ~~were~~ are accordingly appointed to the service.

It appears that Rhode Island, Salem, Sandwich and Dover Quarterly Meetings have paid to our Treasurer their respective proportions of this meetings stock: and Harvey Chace, George F. Read, George W. Eddy and Pelatiah Hussey are appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account, consider of a sum suitable to be raised for the ensuing year; and to propose a Treasurer.

We are informed by Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting that it has united with Swanzey Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Palmer Chace, Thomas Wilbur, Ruth Chace and Mary Chace to the Station

of Elders;- with South Kingstown Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Thomas Foster and Phebe Foster to the same station;- and with Rhode Island Monthly Meeting in approving the gift and public appearances in the ministry of Thomas B. Gould: By Salem Quarterly Meeting ~~Quarterly Meeting~~ that it has united with Salem Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Mary Page to the Station of an Elder — that Sandwich Quarterly Meeting has united with Nantucket Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Sarah S. Paddock to the station of Elder; and by Dover Quarterly Meeting that it has united with Berwick Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Joseph Meader and Mehitable Meader to the same station.

Salem Quarterly Meeting informs, that in conformity with the liberty granted last year - that Meeting has been held at Lynn in the 10th and 5th months instead of at Weare and Seabrook; and at the usual time. In the account from Sandwich it is stated that circumstances have seemed to render it necessary for that meeting to be held in the 10th month at Nantucket instead of Sandwich as heretofore; and Dover Quarterly Meeting reports, that a Separation having taken place in that meeting, it has been found necessary to hold that Quarterly Meeting at North Berwick, instead of Sandwich, Rochester & Dover as formerly; which is satisfactory to this meeting; and under a sense of the tried state of Friends in the different Quarterly Meetings, it is concluded to extend for another year the liberty heretofore granted them to change the time and place of holding those meetings, if circumstances should appear to render ~~such change~~ it necessary, and they are requested to report such change, if any should be made in their accounts to this meeting next year.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning.

Third day morning the 16th Friends again met. The names of the Representatives being called they were present as yesterday.

Having entered upon the consideration of the State of Society by reading the Queries and Answers thereto from the several Quarterly meetings represented in this meeting – they were gone through with and the following Summary is directed to be recorded Viz:

Answer 1st. All our meetings for religious worship and discipline have been attended by Friends gen=erally, with the exception of two – owing to the inclem=ency of the weather. The hour is generally observed clear of unbecoming behaviour a few instances of sleeping excepted.

Ans 2nd. It appears by the answers received that Love and unity are in a good degree main=tained and that detraction is generally guarded against. No differences are reported.

Ans 3d. Friends appear generally careful to bring up those under their care in plainness & to restrain them from reading pernicious books and from corrupt conversation. They are mostly exemplary therein themselves, and the Holy Scriptures frequently are read in most Friends families.

Ans 4th. All the reports state that those who remain with Friends are careful to confine the use of spirituous liquors to medicinal purposes, and to avoid the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and other places of public resort, with some exception in one Quarterly meeting as to the first, and in another as to the latter part of this Query. Moderation and temperance in regard to the subject referred to appear to be observed.

Ans 5th. As far as circumstances arising from the late seperation will admit, the circumstances of the poor and such as are likely to need assistance appear to be inspected and their necessities relieved their children freely partake of learning. None, so far as appears, are placed out from among Friends who are under our control.

Ans 6 th. Nearly all who remain with Friends are carefull that all proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to our discipline. Yet some divistions are reported among the youth and some care has been taken.

Ans 7 th. The several parts of this Query appear to be observed except in one instance of a milit=tary nature.

Ans 8 th. Those who remain with Friends are generally carefull in these respects, although two of the Quarterly meetings report a want of care with some as it regards a timely inspection of their affairs. —

Ans 9 th. Friends generally manifest care and attention to their records. but in some instances where these have fallen into the hands of the Separatists, these have not been duly attended to. Several removals without certificates are noticed in the reports.

Ans 10 th. Some care has been taken to deal with offenders as required and to place judgment according to discipline. although on account of the laying situation in which Friends have been placed by the secession of large numbers in many of our meetings, way has not opened in all of them to deal with such or to place judgment upon them. —

Adjourned to the 4 th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon: near the time adjourned to, the meet=ing gathered.

Memorials of Swanzey Monthly meeting, approved by Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, concerning our beloved Friends Benjamin Buffinton and Ruth Buffinton Deceased, having been examined by the Meeting for sufferings, and laid before this meeting were read, approved and directed to be recorded.

[See page 101 to 106.]

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been produced and read were satisfactory to this meeting; and Nathan Buffinton, Seth Davis, Prince Gardner, Oliver Chace, John Wilbur, Jonathan Nichols, Francis Saber, Peleg Mitchell, William Hill, Charles Perry and Palmer Chace are appointed to consider of some suitable Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings the ensuing year, and produce a list of their names at a future Sitting.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorow morning.

Fourth day morning the 17th. Friends met pursuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives being called, they are present as at the several previous sittings of this meeting.

The Committee appointed at a previous sitting to examine and settle the Treasurers accounts and for other purposes, made the following report; which is acceptable; Israel Buffinton is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this meeting for the year ensuing or until another appointment shall be made: and our Friends Harvey Chace, Ethan Foster, Israel Buffinton, David Buffum, Jonathan Nichols, William B. Oliver, Prince Gardner, Job Eddy, Peleg Mitchell, William Hill, Pelatiah Hussey and Aaron Varney, are appointed to consider the subject of a new apportionment of Stock, and to report to a future sitting of this meeting.

" To New England Yearly Meeting, now Sitting.

"The Committee appointed to settle the Treasurers "accounts, and for other purposes, having attended "thereto - Find a Ballance in his hands of Six dol= "lars and fourty four cents; and propose that "the meeting should raise Three hundred dollars "for its use the ensuing year.

" They also concluded to propose Israel Buffinton "for Treasurer. (signed) Harvey Chace on behalf of "Newport 6 mo 16th 1846. The Committee."

The Committee appointed to call on William Jenkins the former Treasurer of our School Fund made the following Report; which is accepted: and the Friends appointed last year are continued, and requested to pay such attention to the subjet, as in their judgment the nature of the case may require, and report to this meeting next year. Harvey Chace is also reappointed Treasurer of the School Fund.

"To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

"The Committee appointed to call on William Jenkins "the former Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting School Fund, "for the purpose of transfering that Fund to the Treas- "-urer appointed last year; Report, That they attended "to that service in the 10th month last; but that the "former Treasurer wholly refused to place the Fund in "our hands for that purpose; claiming himself to have "been reappointed by New England Yearly Meeting, "and stating that he should not make such transfer "until compelled to do it under the direction of a "Court of Law: So that the object of our appointment "was not accomplished. — (signed)

Newport 6th month 16th 1846 William Hill on behalf of the Committee."

The Committee appointed last year to have charge of our Boarding School at Providence produced the following Report viz.

"To New England Yearly Meeting of Friends now Sitting.

"The Committee appointed at our last Yearly Meeting "to have charge of our Boarding School at Providence; "Report, That the Funds of the Institution and the "controll of the School being in the hands of those "who have seperated themselves from our Religious "Society we have been deprived of any access to the "property or any controll over the School.

"On behalf of the committee

Newport 6th mo 16th 1846. Prince Gardner.
Mary Davis."

The report being read and accepted — the following names

Friends are appointed to have charge of the Institution the ensuing year, in conjuntion with such Women Friends as may be appointed, and they are desired to pay such attention to the concerns of the School as may seem to them best; and to report to this meeting next year viz: Hezekiah Barnard, Prince Gardner, George F. Read, Francis Taber Junr, Thomas Foster, Seth Davis, William Hill, Laban Paddock, James Austin Charles Perry, William B. Oliver, Israel Buffinton, David Bunnum, Thomas Wilbur, Palmer Chace, Harvey Chace, George W. Eddy, Pelatiah Hussey, Peleg Mitchell, Aaron Varney, Jonathan Nichols and John F. Kenyon.

The consideration of that paragraph of our Discipline which requires public Meetings to be held at Portsmouth on the First day of the Yearly meting week, coming before this meeting by a minute of Rhode Island monthly meeting, forwarded in the Account from Rhode Island Quarterly meeting;- by which we are informed, that nearly all the members of Portsmouth Preparative meeting have seperated themselves from our Religious Society, and taken exclusive possession of the meting house there;- it is concluded to appoint our Friends Jonn Wilbur Henry Gould, Thomas P. Nichols, Nathan Page, George F. Read, William B. Oliver, Hezekiah Barnard Francis Taber, Benjamin Tucker, William Hill, Joseph Meader and Pelatiah Hussey, to take the subject into their serious consideration, and report their judgment in the case to a future sitting of this meting.

Adjourned to the 4th hour to morrow afternoon.

Fifth day afternoon, the 18th of the Month. Met pursuant to adjournment. — The names of the representatives being called they were present as heretofore.

The committee to whom the subject of a new apportionment of stock had been referred at a previous sitting made the following report, Viz:

" " " The Yearly Meeting now Sitting.

Having been appointed to consider the proper
" apportionment of the Yearly Meting's Stock among
" the respective quarters, we are united in proposing the
" following, viz, Rhode Island Forty per cent; Salem
" Six; Sandwich Forty; and Dover Fourteen: which we
" submit to the meting.

(signed) On behalf of the committie
" Newport 6 month 17th 1846. " Riley Mitchell."

Which being satisfactory, is accepted; and the Quarterly Meetings therein named are requested to forward their respective proportions of Three hundred dollars the sum agreed to be raised for the use of this meting the ensuing year — to Israel Buffinton the Treasurer of the Yearly meting: and the Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this minute to the several Quarterly Meetings.

The committee appointed yesterday afternoon to consider the subject of reference from Rhode Island Quarterly meeting report as follows; which is acceptable both to this and the Womens meting: Viz.

" To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting.

" The Committee appointed to take into consideration
" the subject forwarded in the account from Rhode Island
" Quarterly Meeting in relation to holding public meet-
" -ings at Portsmouth on the First day of our Yearly
" meeting week, have given attention to the subject;
" and are united in proposing that, that portion
" of Discipline requiring said meetings to be held
" at Portsmouth be suspended until further action
" by the Yearly meeting thereon.

(signed) " On behalf of the Committee
" Newport 6 mo: 17th 1846. Hezekiah Barnard."
Pelatiah Hussey."

And that portion of our Discipline which requires that Public meetings for worship be held at Ports-
-mouth Rhode Island on the First day of the Yearly meeting week, is suspended until further action thereon by this meeting, and our Quarterly and Monthly meetings are directed to have this conclusion appended to their books of Discipline. —

The committee appointed at a previous sitting to consider of the names of Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings produced the following, Viz:

Francis Taber, Hezekiah Swain, John Wilbur, Hezekiah Barnard, Seth Davis, Joh Eddy, Jonathan Nichols, Henry Gould, Prince Gardner, Oliver Chace, Nathan Page, George C. Kenyon, John Mitchell, Thos B. Gould, Thomas Wilbur, Joseph Meader, George F Read, William B. Oliver, Charles Perry, John T. Kenyon, William Hill, Harvey Chace, Benjamin Tucker, Thomas K. Wilbur, Ethan Foster, Amos C. Wilbur, Ahniel Foster, Laban Paddock, James Austin, Israel Buffinton, Palmer Chace, George M. Eddy, Nathan Buffinton, Thomas P. Nichols Thomas Foster, Christy Davis, Peleg Mitchell, Pelatiah Hussey, Francis Taber Junr., Valentine Meader, and James D. Peckham:

which being approved by this meeting they are accordingly appointed to that service for the year ensuing.

Essays of Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of Dublin, Ohio, and North Carolina having been produced were read, and being approved were directed to be signed by the Clerk and forwarded to those Yearly meetings respectively.

Adjourned to the 10th hour to morrow morning.

Sixth day morning — the 19th. Friends again assembled. — The names of the representatives being called they were present as heretofore.

The Committee appointed last year to visit subordinate meetings, in consequence of the separation which has taken place within our limits made the following report, which is accepted: and it appearing by the report of said committee, that they were not received or acknowledged, either by Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalborough or Fairfield Quarterly meetings and that those Quarterly Meetings have not been sustained in subordination to this meeting: Francis Taber, Seth Davis, Prince Gardner, Nathan Page

William Hill, Peleg Mitchell, John Wilbur, Henry Gould Laban Paddock, Benjamin Tucker, Joseph Meader, Benjamin Gardner, Job Colby, James Austin, Palmer Chace, Thomas B. Gould, Francis Taber Junr Nathan Buffinton, Thomas Foster, Israel Buffinton, George F. Read, Harvey Chace, Charles Perry, James D. Peckham, Jonathan Nichols, Ebenezer Austin, Philip Tripp, Oliver Chace and Aaron Varney; are appointed to visit those meetings, as they may find an opening made for them to do so, and to labour for their help and restoration: And as divers of our meetings are left in a tried state, by the mournful events which have recently occurred within our borders, the committee is left at liberty, and desired, to render such advice and assistance to our subordinate meetings generally, as, in the stripped condition of those meetings, they may appear to require, and to report to this meeting next year.

To New England Yearly Meeting of Friends now Sitting.

The Committee appointed to visit subordinate meetings and to render such advice and assistance as might appear necessary and way should open for, to those meetings in the transaction of their business according to discipline and the good order of our religious society; report, that in the fulfilment of our appointment, we have visited divers of the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings within our limits and where permitted have extended such advice and assistance as the very trying circumstances in which Friends were placed seemed to require and we were enabled to afford.

Inasmuch as a seperation had already taken place in Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting and in all the Monthly Meetings composing it, previous to our appointment, and Friends in that Quarter were thus measurably delivered from the more trying situation in which they had been placed; the labours of the Committee have not been so much required in that Quarterly Meeting,—yet some of the committee from other Quarters have at times attended it.

In the seventh month last a part of our number attended Sandwich Quarterly Meeting held on Nantucket, and presented the minute of our appointment to the Yearly Meeting, which the Clerk of that Quarterly Meeting declined to receive or

or read, in which course he was supported by divers of the members of that meeting, many of whom had separated themselves from Friends at the time of the last Yearly Meeting, and now further manifested their departure and insubordination by receiving a minute from the separate Yearly Meeting, and acknowledged its committee which was then present — after much ineffectual labor had been bestowed to prevent them from casting off their allegiance to the Society, its principles and discipline; — one of the representatives proposed the name of a friend for Clerk which was united with by sound Friends and he was advised to open the Meeting which he did and the business was commenced, soon after which the separatists in accordance with a proposition made by one of their number, hastily read a minute of adjournment & left the house. Against this act on their part Friends objected, and it was distinctly stated that Sandwich Quarterly Meeting of Friends had not adjourned. Which information caused the women's meeting and all those who desired to maintain their subordination to the ancient Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England was immediately convened after leaving the house. Friends remained therein and concluded the business of the Quarterly Meeting. — The business meeting was similar course was pursued both on the part of Friends and the seceders the former having also appointed a Clerk in accordance with the order and usage of society and accomplished the business. Thus was Sandwich Quarterly Meeting sustained upon its original foundation and has since been regularly held by Friends at New-Bedford and Nantucket.

On the 7th. month a portion of the committee attended Salem Quarterly Meeting at Lynn and the minute of their appointment was laid upon the Clerk's table. But he refused to notice it & proceed with the business. After a short interval a Friend proposed that inasmuch as the Clerk would not read extracts from the minutes of the Yearly Meeting, that another should be appointed in his place who would acknowledge the proper subordination thereto. But it was thought best to allow more time for the Clerk to decide and the appointment was not made at that time.

The meeting sat together for several hours without taking any action, giving Friends however a full opportunity of relieving their minds and warning all present against separating themselves from

our religious Society. — But the Clerk still persisted in declining to read the extracts, and at length an adjournment was proposed and agreed to by those who supported him. At this time the nomination of another person for Clerk was renewed and the appointment was made. The meeting was opened and was proceeding with business when a large part of those assembled withdrew leaving Friends in the house in the regular transaction of the business of the Quarterly Meeting.

As the time was far spent the Meeting was adjourned to meet at another place on the following day; the separatists having adjourned to the meeting house. — The women's meeting had become so reduced that it was not sustained on the day of the separation, but the next day it was enabled to cooperate with men Friends in the transaction of the business of the Quarterly Meeting. Both the men's and women's meetings [illegible] and at Yarm and Lynn.

Several of the Committee also attended Over Quarterly Meeting in the eighth month. On opening the meeting for discipline it appeared that there were two accounts purporting to come from Berwick Monthly Meeting; — those who had identified themselves in the separation at the Yearly Meeting with some others having separated from Friends in that Monthly meeting a short time before the Quarterly meeting was held. *

Both the accounts purporting to be from Berwick Monthly Meeting were read in the Quarterly Meeting, the names of the representatives called, and responded to by all.

An extract from the minutes of the Yearly Meeting containing the appointment of the Committee was laid on the table and the reading of it called for. The assistant Clerk who acted for that time declined to read it on the ground that it was not signed by the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting which they acknowledged. Neve-

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* Note. — This separation was effected in the Monthly Meeting after the appointment of the regular Clerk had been made and minuted, the usual unity of the meeting having been expressed therewith, only one person dissenting. — That person in the same meeting named another individual for Clerk and urged his stepping to the table notwithstanding the reappointment of the regular clerk. — A few united with him therein, and the person so nominated attempted to act as Clerk of the meeting — but soon left the house with those who encouraged him therein, and Friends remained and concluded their business. —

Members of the committee were shrewdly urged to leave the house it being alleged that they had been disowned. But this having ceased, an opportunity was afforded for the committee to make a just statement of the circumstances which had led to this unhappy state of things, to manifest the unsoundness of those who had been the cause of it and to invite a turning to and joining with us.

This having been fully done the assistant clerk still persisting in his refusal to read or acknowledge the document from the Yearly Meeting Friends appointed a clerk, no opposition being made thereto until after the minute of his appointment had been read, a part of the representatives having been together and agreed upon a suitable Friend for the station and proposed his name to the meeting, it being their usual time of making the appointment. Much commotion ensued on the part of those who had sustained the assistant clerk in his position and two out of the men Friends remained together and concluded the business of the Quarterly Meeting.

In the women's Quarterly Meeting proceedings very similar took place, our women Friends were also left by those who opposed them, when a Clerk was appointed — and they proceeded in the transaction of the business until it was concluded, and that Quarterly Meeting has since been regularily held at North Berwick.

Several of the committee attended the public Quarterly Meeting of Falmouth held at Windham, at the close of which great effort was made, and strong and oppressive language used to induce us to withdraw; the committee however remained and endeavoured to explain the object of their visit and the true situation of things in this Yearly Meeting; but it did appear that the leaders of the people dare not allow things to be fairly opened in the hearing of so many of their members, for they hurriedly withdrew casting the people after them. They then retired to another apartment and set a guard at the door to prevent our men friends from entering. But the women remained and after some renewed effort was made to induce our women friends of the committee to withdraw; they had an opportunity fully to relieve their oppressed minds and left with the reward of peace. Although there were a few friends here who appeared to sympathize in our concern and some who gladly received us, yet there were not sufficient to sustain the Quarterly Meeting at that time.

When the committee arrived at Fairfield in order to attend that Quarterly Meeting we found the house locked, and

we were informed that we should not be allowed to enter the meeting house unless we would promise to sit through the publick meeting in silence and at the rise thereof quietly to depart. After a pause we said to them "whether it be right to hearken unto men more than unto God judge ye" — not daring to enter into any such engagment. These opposers then set a guard at the doors and prevented Friends from entering the house, and those who would fain have treated us civilly were hurried into the house, some being taken by the arm and drawn away by the door keepers.

In the mean time Friends were enabled to clear their skirts [illegible] able to gainsay or resist. They urged the Committee to leave the ground, and at length pointed out the bounds of their possessions, and threatened if we did not leave they should remove us very soon.

But this was not attempted, and after remaining as long as seemed to be required of us we felt easy to leave, there not being any prospect at that time of sustaining it upon its original ground.

At Vassalborough several persons came to our lodgings previous to the Quarterly Meeting professing to be a committee of the Yearly Meeting, and informed us that unless we could promise to sit in silence through the meeting for worship and then quietly withdraw we should not be admitted into the house at all. We let them know we did not feel at liberty to make any such promises. — They then insisted on our not going to the meeting house, but we told them we could not feel easy without making the attempt to attend that Quarterly Meeting, and in company with a few of their members who had manifested full unity with us we went to the meeting house at the appointed time and found guards placed at the doors; — but our women friends went upon the steps in order to go in if allowed. One of them was quite crowded off, and on asking whether they might not go in, the guard at the door replied "there is no admittance for you."

Friends then remained standing in silence for a time near the door, after which they felt most easy to remove a little from the house, and a solid meeting for worship was held in the open air, attended by the few there whose hearts were open to receive us, but as the number of these was very small way did not open for an attempt to sustain any meeting either for worship or

discipline, more than to suggest to a few friends the desirableness of retirement into their families.

Several of the Committee attended the public Quarterly Meeting at Smithfield in the second month; but were prevented from attending that for Scituate in the summer similar to that pursued by our opposers at Falmouth, they retiring to another apartment and placing a guard at the door to prevent our entrance.

It did not appear that this Quarterly Meeting could be sustained at that time.

In recurring to the painful circumstance that [illegible] numbers of New England Yearly Meeting have been thus led astray, having as we believe been deceived and kept in the dark relative to the true state of things among us by the misrepresentations of those who have been leading from the discipline and order of our religious society and undermining our Christian doctrines and testimonies — and being strongly cautioned or arbitrarily prohibited from obtaining that information and light they so much stand in need of, — we have not seen that any efforts of ours or even of the Yearly Meeting could at the present time be effectual [illegible] the unity of Friends.

But may we not hope as patience is abode in, that under the hand of Him whose power only is sufficient, in great mercy to this backslidden people He shall visit them and convince them of the error of their ways and that they shall yet again incline unto Him who desires not the destruction of any but that all may return repent and live.

~~Under a sense of the dispirited condition many [illegible] meetings have arisen [illegible] in a special manner [illegible] with them.~~

On behalf of the Committee

Newport 6th mo. 18th 1846.

John Wilbur,
Elizabeth Hill.

Adjourned to half past 3 o'clock this afternoon.

[illegible] — Friends remain [illegible] pursuant [illegible].

Under a consideration of the state of Society as presented by the answers to the Queries, and during the several sittings

of this Yearly Meeting the minds of Friends have been introduced into much exercise on account of the dangers by which we are surrounded, with earnest desires that our dear absent brethren may be made partakers with us herein, and that they also may be reminded of the need there is of greater diligence and faithfulness in the discharge of the important trust committed unto us as a people, which has been weightily impressed upon us in the knowing language of Him who said, "what I say unto you I say unto all, watch."

We have been renewedly convinced that the enemy of man's happiness is ever [illegible] of those who have made some good progress in the way of holiness than for such as have not been so faithful or so highly favoured.

The [illegible] Parents to guard the tender minds of their children against the [illegible] feelingly and weightily enforced, and they have been incited to create faithfulness and dedication; that as their precepts may be enforced by an example consistent with our holy and high profession. Then will they be enabled like the patriarch Abraham to command their children and their household after them; and so from one generation to another a succession of standard bearers and testimony bearers would be raised up who will be valiant for the truth in the earth, and others seeing their good works would be aroused by their labours and encouraged by their faithfulness and devotion [illegible] to say, – We have inquired after the Lords Most and thus coming to taste and see that the Lord is good and that He is a rich rewarder of all them that obey Him. Many would be richly qualified and prepared to glorify our Father who is in Heaven.

The situation of those few and widely scattered Friends within the limits of these Quarterly Meetings which have not been represented in this meeting at this time; but we have nevertheless maintained their integrity and allegiance to the doctrines, testimonies and discipline of the Society, under very discouraging circumstances, coming under consideration, this meeting was introduced into a feeling of near sympathy with them; and living desires were raised and expressed for their encouragement and [illegible].

Essays of Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of Friends in London, Philadelphia, Newyork, Indianna

and Rhode Island [illegible] and directed to be signed by the clerk and forwarded to those Yearly Meetings accordingly.

The committee to whom that subject was referred reported as their judgment that the extracts from the minutes of North Carolina and Newyork Yearly Meetings should be placed on file. *

The painfully interesting subject of Slavery having been wisibly introduced and solidly considered in this Meeting and the propriety of memorializing the National Legislature or addressing the people of the United States on this great & alarming iniquity in our land being proposed — the further consideration thereof is referred to the Meeting for Sufferings, which is encouraged to embrace every visible opening to promote the concern of this meeting.

The Clerk is authorized to make any necessary extracts from our minutes not already provided for and to sign them on our behalf.

Having been mercifully favoured to witness a [illegible] the various exercises and trials which have been allotted us since we have been assembled for the transaction of the weighty affairs of Society; with feelings of reverent thankfulness to the great Head of the Church — we conclude, — purposing to meet again on this Island in the sixth month next if the Lord permit.

Thomas B. Gould Clerk.

* A minute of London Yearly Meeting dated 26th. 5th. month 1816, and signed by its Clerk, has at this time been received and read and being considered is directed to be placed on file.

# Testimony

of Swanzey Monthly Meeting of Friends con-
cerning Benjamin Buffinton, deceased.—

[illegible] minute unto us duly to record the following testimony concerning our deceased friend Benjamin Buffinton, deceased.

He was born in Swanzey the first of Eleventh month 1782. His Parents, Moses and Isabel Buffinton were exemplary and devoted members of our religious society. From a manuscript which he left it appears that although he took great delight in play, he was preserved from using bad words, and was naturally of a steady turn of mind. He says "on arriving at the age of sixteen years I became [illegible] and a love for reading took place in my mind — especially the Bible and other good books, which I believe was of great use to me." It appears that he afterwards gave way to join with rude company & thereby sustained a loss. But the Lord followed him with His gentle reproofs, and set his sins in order before him. He was introduced into deep conflict of spirit, and was led to covenant with the Lord, that if He would be pleased to pass by his transgressions and forgive his sins, he would be more faithful to what was manifested to be his duty; and he says "I believe the Lord heard my cry & supplication, whereby I was enabled to be more watchful."

From this time his desire for attending religious meetings increased, in which he often felt the covering of His heavenly Father's love to be near him, and became earnestly desirous and to persevere in the path of obedience and dedication. On arriving at man's estate he had very serious thoughts in respect to getting a livelihood in connexion with the prospect of changing his situation from a single to a married state. He says "as I was thinking on these things, & my mind turned to the Lord, desiring to be rightly directed in this most weighty affair, a language presented to my mind after this manner; 'seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added;' and however I may have come short of faithfulness and obedience in all things to His requirings, yet, I believe the Lord has fulfilled that gracious promise; which has often been sounding to my mind."

He was joined in marriage with Charity Robinson about the 23d. year of his age, and had frequent occasion to commemorate the goodness of the Lord towards him & his dear companion.

As time passed on he began to feel that if he was faithful to the inward manifestations of Divine Light and Grace, he should be called to bear public testimony to the blessed Truth in our religious meetings. He says "this service appeared so great to me, that I feared I never could give up to it, yet the Good hand still followed me"; and about the 32nd. year of his age he was strengthened to make the sacrifice to the peace of his own mind and to the satisfaction of his Friends. After a suitable time his gift in the ministry was acknowledged by Swanzey Monthly Meeting, of which he continued to be a member to the close of his life. In his usual diligence in his social and relative duties, humbly and devotedly labouring for the advancement of the cause of Truth and righteousness in the earth, he was a valuable member of society; an instrument of usefulness in the Church, and in the exercise of his gift in the ministry a 'son of consolation' to many. — With the concurrence of his Friends he visited at different times in Gospel love, several of the Quarterly Meetings of New England Yearly Meeting; and also some parts of New York Yearly Meeting, to the peace of his own mind, and as the returning minutes granted him on these occasions fully show, to the satisfaction and edification of Friends where his lot was cast.

At home he was diligent in the attendance of our religious meetings, not only those held on the first, but on other days of the week, often remarking that these were seasons of comfort and encouragement to him. Being once asked why he attended so steadily, as he did, for fear he should miss of the end which was intended for him.

He was one of those upon whom blessings were pronounced as a peace-maker — often exhorting Friends to live in love — to dwell in love, that so peace might abound. He was not only a firm believer in the Doctrines of the Gospel as professed by Friends from the beginning, but consistent and exemplary in the maintenance of our Christian principles and testimonies both at home and abroad. Towards the close of his life he was deeply concerned on account of the inroads which were evidently making in divers quarters upon our original principles; and the manifest departures on the part of many both in

doctrine and practice, from ancient simplicity were unto him the cause of much sorrow and lamentation over the flock. But his mind was stayed upon the Lord during the many trials and close conflicts which he had to pass through in the progress of these innovations.

Not near his end he imparted much sweet counsel and advice to his family and friends who visited him; and there was a calmness and serenity prevaded his mind to the last, which manifested the ground of his confidence and the foundation of his hope of a blessed inheritance with the Saints in Light, to be upon Him who is the Rock of ages — the sure foundation of the righteous in every generation. All his expressions indicated a lively sense of a happy immortality — a blessed assurance that a crown of righteousness was in store for him when his Lord and Master might see meet to release him from his earthly tabernacle. He said, "one day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere." "I had rather be a door keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

Being asked by one of his family if she wanted something, he replied, "I want to be in my Redeemer's arms." This desire we have reason to believe was soon answered, by his being released from the conflicts of time, like one falling into a quiet sleep, on the 20th of 2d. month 1843, aged 71 years, and having been a minister about 41 years. — On the 23d. of the same month his funeral was attended by a large and solemn assembly, after which his remains were interred in Friends burying ground at Fall River, Mass.

As he lived, so he died, in the unshaken faith that we had not followed cunningly devised fables, but the pure and everlasting Truth.

Signed on behalf and by direction of Swansey Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Fall River 4th month 27th. 1846.

William E. Wood, Assistant Clerk.

Isabella B. Shearman, Clerk.

## Testimony of
## Swanzey Monthly Meeting of Friends concerning
## Ruth Buffinton deceased.

In the memorials of those who through the living and efficacious power of Truth have been enabled to bring forth fruits of righteousness to the praise of the great Husbandman, we are enabled to benefit their survivors; we feel it to be our duty for this end, to preserve the following testimony concerning our beloved friend Ruth Buffinton, deceased.

She was born in Dartmouth, Bristol County Massachusetts the 21st. of 5th. month 1726. Her parents were members of our religious Society. She was blessed with a peaceful and quiet disposition, and early manifested a serious thoughtfulness, avoiding the company of the gay and lively, and choosing those who were modest and retiring as her companions — she thereby cherished those sentiments and principles which afterwards contributed to make her an exemplary and useful member of Society.

When about fifteen years old after a severe illness, she felt, as expressed to her sister, compunctions of conscience, on account even of slight deviations from the path of rectitude. Thus did it please the Lord early to enlighten her understanding, and enable her to discern between good and evil — and abiding under the divine and holy influence of the love of God shed abroad in her heart, she became an instrument of usefulness to those around her.

In the twenty eighth year of her age she was united in marriage with Daniel Buffinton a member of Swanzey Monthly Meeting, within the limits of which she resided during the rest of her life. She manifested a devotion to the cause of Truth and righteousness, and was diligent in the attendance of our religious meetings [illegible]. She often encouraged her family and friends in well doing using the language of Scripture "They that seek me early shall find me, and to him who inclineth his ear will I give instruction."

About the forty second year of her age she was appointed to the station of an Elder which she usefully and acceptably filled until the close of her life. — For some time previous to her death she was convinced that her Divine Master required a more public

offering at her hands; and though her words were few they were acceptable to her friends, and accompanied with much weight & powerful demonstration that Truth often prevailed and the name of the Lord was magnified.

She was a kind and faithful wife, a tender and affectionate Mother, often imparting instructive lessons to her family and desiring that they might become members of our Christian profession and useful members of the Church. She frequently read the Holy Scriptures in her family sometimes accompanied with remarks tending to impress their solemn precepts.

She tender and sympathetic mother extended to the wants and sufferings of those around her, and in a Christian manner she ministered to their necessities. As this Friend and her husband were given to hospitality, their house was ever open to those traveling in Truth's service from abroad, as well as to their friends near home.

On the morning of the 31st of 1st. month 1841, she was seized with pleurisy, and although her sickness continued severe and unabated, yet it was borne with Christian patience and resignation. She frequently expressed doubts of her recovery, desiring at the same time that she might be patient under whatever suffering her Divine Lord and Master might see meet to permit, until he should be pleased to release her therefrom.

The evening before her departure she told her husband she felt she should not recover, and desired that her children might be called into the room. She then requested that a portion of Scripture should be read, which being done she afterwards expressed much satisfaction, applying parts of it to her own case; she continued much the same till about nine o'clock of the following morning, on being raised by two of her children to take medicine, she fell back into their arms saying "Don't hold me, — let me go — all will be well with me," — and while quoting a saying of [illegible] "Thou [illegible] because I am alive, I [illegible]" she expired [illegible] afternoon; when without any apparent struggle she quietly ceased to breathe; it being on sixth day the fifth of second month 1841, and we doubt not she has passed from works to the everlasting "rewards of the righteous."

On first day following her funeral was attended at a large assembly of her friends and neighbours, when her remains were deposited in Friends' burial ground at Fall River, Massachusetts.

"Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh, shall find watching."

Signed on behalf and by direction of Swansea Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Fall River the 4th. month 27th. 1816.

William H. Hood, Assistant Clerk.
Isabella B. Shearman, Clerk.

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England, held on Rhode Island, beginning with publick meetings for Worship at Newport on First day the 13th of Sixth month 1847; and on second day morning the 14th, for Discipline.

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island, Salem, Sandwich and Dover Quarterly Meetings, by which we are informed that the following Friends are appointed representatives to this meeting, viz.

From Rhode Island — John Wilbur, Charles Perry, Henry Gould, Oliver Chace, Harvey Chace, Thomas Wilbur, Israel Buffinton, George C. Kenyon, Othniel Foster and John Mitchell.

From Salem — Jonathan Nichols, Nathan Page, George F. Read, William B. Nevins & David Buffum.

From Sandwich — Francis Taber, Prince Gardner, Seth Davis, Job Eddy, William Howland, Christopher C. Hussey, George W. Eddy and Thomas K. Wilbur. From Dover — William Hill, Timothy Varney, Pelatiah Hussey, Aaron Varney and Andrew Austin — whose names being called they were all present, and answered thereto.

No account has been received at this time from either Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalborough or Fairfield Quarterly Meetings.

This meeting having been introduced at this time into a feeling of deep concern for the welfare and preservation of our Religious Society upon its original ground; and the propriety of addressing an Epistle to those making profession with Friends wherever scattered who are sincerely concerned and engaged for the maintenance of our Ancient Principles and Testimonies, being proposed; with a view to their encouragement in a faithful adherence to the Truth, and for the

fuller information of such, with regard to the Causes which under have produced a division amongst us; the proposition obtained the solid consideration of the meeting, and resulted in the appointment of the following Friends, to take the subject into their serious consideration, in conjunction with a simi= lar committee of our womens meeting, should they unite in this concern — and they are requested to lay the result of their deliberations upon it before a future sitting of this meeting: Viz.

John Hilbur, Francis Taber, Prince Gardner, Thomas Wilbur, Peleg Mitchell, George F. Read, William Hill, Valentine Meader, Harvey Chace, Christopher C. Hussey, James Austin, Charles Perry, Amos C. Wilbur, Ethan Foster, Frances Taber Junr, Nathan Page and Thomas B. Gould.

The subject of addressing Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings of Friends with whom we have heretofore corresponded, coming again under consid- eration, it is referred to the same committee.

The representatives are requested to confer together and propose to the next sitting the names of suita= ble Friends to serve the meeting as Clerk and Assistant the present year.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, Friends assembled pursuant to adjournment.

Thomas Wilbur, on behalf of the representatives, reported; that nearly all of them had been together during the recess and were united in proposing Thomas B. Gould for Clerk, and Charles Perry for Assistant Clerk; and their names having been sep= arately considered and approved by this meeting, the Friends are respectively appointed to those services for the ensuing year.

The meeting enters upon the consideration of the State of Society by reading the Queries & answers thereto from the subordinate branches; during which the minds of concerned Friends were introduced into a lively exercise for the welfare of the Church,

and Friends were feelingly exercised to gather to that Divine Life and Power in which our excellent system of Church discipline was originally established, and upon which our peculiar testimonies and Christian Principles are founded. If parents and heads of families are apt & engage to gather here, they will not only be concerned to maintain our testimony faithfully themselves, with regard to plainness of speech behaviour and apparel, but they will also be clothed with right authority to restrain their children and those under their care, from the contaminating influence of the vain fashions and customs the false maxims and corrupt manners of the world; and so being made willing even to appear as fools for Christ's sake in that plainness and simplicity which the Truth leads into and requires;- the plain appearance and solid deportment of such youth would be as a barrier around them, which would serve as a means of protection and defence against many of the snares and temptations to which those of less circumspection and consistency with our profession are greatly exposed.

Being reverently concerned to keep the first and great commandment, to love the Lord with all the heart mind, might and strength, we should experience the second to be like unto it; and so coming to love our neighbours as ourselves, we should not suffer a light matter to prevent us from performing the reasonable service of assembling with our brethren for the purpose of waiting upon and worshiping Him from whom every good and perfect Gift cometh.

In these solemn and rightly gathered assemblies our spiritual strength would be renewed, and we should be enabled to run without being weary and to walk without fainting in the way of the Lords commandments, to our own unspeakable consolation, and through Holy help to the advancement of the cause of Truth and righteousness in the earth.

The following is a Summary of the Answers to the Queries received at this time: viz.

Answer 1st. It appears by the reports from the Monthly Meetings that all our meetings for religious worship and discipline have been attended; yet Three of them notice deficiencies in this important duty — on which account one report states that some care has been taken. The hour is mostly observed. Some appearances of sleepiness are noticed. Clear of other unbecoming behaviour.

Ans: 2nd. Love and unity appear to be in a good degree maintained and detraction guarded against. No differences appear to exist.

Ans: 3d. Friends are generally careful to bring up those under their direction in plainness and to restrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation. They are mostly exemplary themselves. The Holy Scriptures appear to be frequently read in most Friends families.

Ans 4th. Friends are careful to confine the use of spiritous liquors to medicinal purposes — and also to avoid the unnecessary frequenting of taverns: one report makes some exception in regard to other places of public resort. Moderation and temperance appear to be observed on the account of births, marriages Burials and on other occasions.

Ans: 5th. The circumstances of the poor and such as appear likely to need assistance, appear to be attended to and their necessities relieved — their children partake of learning — None are reported as being placed out from among Friends.

Ans: 6th. It appears that care is taken on this account: although three instances of marriages out of the order of Society are mentioned in one report which were under notice; and in another report some deficiency is noticed in which care has been taken.

Ans: 7th. It appears that Friends are clear in respect to the several parts of this Query · except a few instances which are mentioned in one report of young people attending meetings where Priests wages are paid.

Ans: 8th. Friends appear to be generally careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts; also to fulfil their promises, and be just in the payment of their debts: and to endeavour to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

Ans: 9th. Our records appear to be attended to as far as circumstances will admit. A few instances of removal without certificate are mentioned; one of which is reported as being under notice.

Ans: 10th. It appears by the several reports, that care has been taken to deal with offenders in good measure as required by the Query: and that endeavours are used to please judgment according to discipline.

Adjourned to the Tenth hour to morrow morning.

Third day morning the 15th – near the hour appointed the meeting gathered.

The names of the representatives being called they were ~~all~~ present, with one exception and answered thereto for which exception a satisfactory reason was assigned.

It appears that Whole, Hope, Salem, Lonsdale and Dover Quarterly Meetings have paid to our Treasurer their respective proportions of this meetings Stock: and Harvey Chace, David Buffum, Peleg Mitchell and Pelatiah Hussey are appointed to examine and settle the Treasurer's account – consider of a suitable sum to be raised for the use of this meeting the present year and to propose a Treasurer.

Salem Quarterly Meeting informs that it has united with Salem Monthly Meeting in approving the Gift and public appearances in the Ministry of Lois. S. Ives.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, has united with Dartmouth monthly Meeting in its approving of the public appearances in the Ministry of Isaac Lawrence and Hannah Slade; and in the dismission of Abraham Russel from the Station of an Elder. It has also united with Dartmouth Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Sylvia R. Wilbur to the same station.

Swansea Quarterly Meeting has united with Sandwich Monthly meeting in approving the Gift and public appearances in the Ministry of Mary S. Varney. It also appears that the several Quarterly Meetings, now represented in this meeting have received the Extracts from the minutes of our last yearly Meeting — that the required paragraph has been appointed to their Books of Discipline; and that, with the exception of Salem Quarter, those meetings have respectively been held at the same times and places as reported last year.

Salem Quarterly Meeting informs — that in accordance with the liberty granted by this meeting, it has changed the time of appointing the Fourth month, from the Tenth hour to the Eleventh; which is satisfactory to this Meeting: and after a time of deliberation thereon — it is concluded to extend for another year the liberty heretofore granted to change the time and place of holding the several Quarterly Meetings — which are respectively requested to render an account of such changes to this meeting next year.

The records of the meeting for Sufferings having been produced were read. The concern manifested by that Meeting for the welfare of the Society: and the result of their deliberations upon the subject of Slavery — which was particularly referred to them, by this meeting last year — are satisfactory to us.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon — Friends again assembled pursuant to adjournment.

The Committee appointed at our sitting this morning

to examine and settle the Treasurers accounts and for other purposes, produced the following Report; which has been read, and is acceptable to the meeting.
Grant Buffington is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this meeting for the present year or until another appointment; and the Quarterly Meetings are requested to raise and forward to him their respective proportions of Two hundred and fifty dollars The sum concluded to be raised for the use of this meeting the ensuing year. Viz.

"To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting.

"The committee appointed to settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes report; that they "find in the hands of the Treasurer One hundred & "sixty nine dollars and Twenty eight cents:- They "recommend the raising Two Hundred and Fifty "dollars for the use of the meeting the ensuing year.

"They also propose Grant Buffington for Treasurer.

"Newport 6th mo 15th 1847. Harvey Chase. On behalf of the Committee."

South Kingstown having appealed to this meeting from the decision of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, confirming the judgment of Windham Monthly Meeting in denying them the right of membership. And the standing said Quarterly Meeting has neglected to give us the usual notice and also to appoint appointment respondents to represent the case on their behalf - after a time of deliberate consideration, we have concluded to appoint - Harvey Chase, Thomas Wilbur and Ethan Foster of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, George H. Read, Jonathan Nichols and William B. Oliver of Salem; - Seth Davis, Peleg Mitchell and George W. Eddy of Scituate; and William Hill, Timothy Varney and Josiah Chester of Dover, to hear the appellant and investigate the case, and those members of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting who are now present are requested to afford such information to the committee with regard to it as may be in their power and the Committee are requested to report to this meeting their judgment in the case.

Adjourned to the ninth hour tomorrow morning.

Fourth day morning, the Sixteenth — Friends again met according to adjournment.

The names of the representatives being called they were all present and answered thereto, except one, who was unavoidably prevented from attending at this time.

Prince Gardner, Seth Davis, Francis Taber, Israel Buffinton, Peleg Mitchell, Thomas Wilbur, William Hill, Obed Foster, Palmer Chace, Charles Perry, Jonathan Nichols, Job Eddy, Christopher C. Hussey and Samuel B. Chace are appointed to consider of and propose to a future sitting the names of suitable Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings the ensuing year.

The Committee charged with the transfer of the School Fund from the former to the present Treasurer, made the following Report, which is accepted; and the Friends now under appointment are continued, and desired to pay such attention to the subject as may appear best and to report to this meeting next year.

Harvey Chace is appointed Treasurer of the School Fund for the ensuing year or until another appointment.

"To the Yearly Meeting, now Sitting.

"The Committee heretofore appointed to call on the former Treasurer of the School Fund for a transfer of that Fund to the Treasurer last appointed by the "Yearly Meeting. Report — That — the said fund still "remains in the hands and under the control of the "Separatists: and as we were given to understand "by the former Treasurer, That the transfer would not be made except under the compulsory precepts "of the Law; no way has appeared for us to act in "the case since our continuance last year.

"Newport 6 month 16th 1848. (Signed) William Hill. on behalf of the Committee.

The difficulties which have occurred in consequence of the Separation which has taken place in this Yearly

Meeting in relation to Friends residing both within and without our limits regularly proceeding in marriage with each other; being introduced and deliberately considered we appoint - Francis Taber, Peleg Mitchell, Prince Gardner, Ethan Foster, Thomas Wilbur, Charles Perry, Nathan Page, Jonathan Nichols, David Buffum, Timothy Varney, Joseph Meader, Palatiah Hussey, and Ebenezer Austin, to take the subject into their serious consideration, and if way open for it present to a future Sitting a minute making provision for such cases as now exist or may hereafter occur.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon — Friends assembled near the time appointed.

The committee appointed at our Sitting this morning to propose the names of suitable Friends to constitute a meeting for Sufferings produced the following which being approved by this meeting they are accordingly appointed to the service for the year ensuing or until another appointment: Viz. Francis Taber, Hezekiah Swain, John Wilbur, Hezekiah Bernard, Seth Davis, Job Eddy, Jonathan Nichols, Henry Gould, Prince Gardner, Oliver Chace, Nathan Page, George E. Kenyon, Thomas B. Gould, John Mitchell, Thomas Wilbur, Joseph Meader, George T. Read, William B. Oliver, Charles Perry, John T. Kenyon, William Hill, Harvey Chace, Benjamin Foster, Thomas R. Wilbur, Ethan Foster, Amos C. Wilbur, Othniel Foster, James Austin, Israel Buffinton, Palmer Chace, George W. Eddy, Nathan Buffinton, Thomas ? Nichols, Thomas Foster, Christy Davis, Peleg Mitchell, Palatiah Hussey, Francis Taber Junr, Valentine Meader, James D. Peckham, Samuel B. Chace, Timothy Varney, Samuel Sheffield, and Christopher C. Hussey. —

The Committee appointed at our first sitting to consider the propriety of addressing an Epistle to those wherever scattered who are sincerely concerned and engaged for the maintenance of our ancient Principles and Testimonies produced the following Essay [see Page ]

which having been deliberately read and solidly

considered both by this and the Womens meeting was fully united with and adopted by each; and the Clerks were respectively directed to sign the same on behalf of this meeting. The Essay is referred to the Committee for Sufferings for publication, which is requested to have such number of copies printed as it may deem expedient not exceeding Ten Thousand, and defray the expense by a draft on the Treasurer of this meeting.

An Epistle addressed to this meeting from our beloved Friend Esther Austen has been received and read at this time: and being truly acceptable and encouraging unto us, it is directed to be recorded and also transcribed and forwarded to the different Quarterly Meetings.

"To the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England.

Dearly Beloveds.

My soul breaths unto the Fountain for your preservation in the unchangable Truth as well as for myself — that you may be strengthened to hold on your way. Give not back; for it is those that continue faithful unto the end that shall receive the Crown even that crown that never can fade away.

Keep all your meetings in the Power of God; and wings that to be over all! Be not dismayed at the smallness of your number, although it be reduced as Gideons of old: for He is an all-powerful Captain who never was foiled in battle, nor beaten in the field, and who brings all off conquerors that faithfully follow Him. Those that are willing to suffer with Him and to be reproached for His name sake when He reigns, shall also reign with Him; for where I am, He says there shall also my servant be. The servant is not greater than his Lord; neither is he that is sent greater than He that sent him. If they have called the Master of the house Beelzebub how much more shall they call those of his household. Therefore take courage.

May we abide in Him the true and living Vine. As the Branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the Vine, so neither can ye except ye abide in Me; for without Me ye can do nothing! And may we so abide

in Him that we may be enabled to discern all the stratagems of the enemy in his transforming appearances that every thing may be removed that is not of His own begetting, that has crept in amongst us. That the Church may again stand forth in its ancient splendor, and be seen coming up from the wilderness, leaning upon her Beloved fair as the moon clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners — that there be no counting of the South.

Remember Gideons company was a small company; yet we see how the Lord did magnify his Power and his mighty arm in putting the host of the Midianites to flight.

May the Lord vouchsafe, of His living presence amongst you in this your Annual Assembly, that all may be done to His glory, and to the honour of His great Name. If any man speak let Him speak as the oracle of God — if any man minister let him do it of the ability that God giveth.

Finally, my Friends, Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might put on the whole armour; and take the sword of the Spirit, that you may be enabled to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. So breathes your absent friend — though absent in body, yet present in spirit

(signed) Esther Austin.

Westbrook, Maine 6th month 6th 1847. "

Adjourned to the Third hour tomorrow afternoon.

Fifth day afternoon, the 17th — Pursuant to adjournment the meeting gathered.

The names of the Representatives being called, they were all present and responded thereto.

The Committee appointed last year to have charge of our Boarding School at Providence: made the following report, which is accepted; and the Friends now under appointment (with the exception of our friend Laban Paddock deceased) are continued; and requested to pay such attention to the subject as may seem to be required and to report to this meeting next year.

To the yearly Meeting now Sitting.

" The committee appointed at our last yearly Meeting to have charge of the Boarding School at Providence Report that as the Funds of the Institution and the control of the School are in the hands of those who have separated themselves from Friends, and all access to the property having been withheld from us, no opportunity has presented for us to exercise any control over the Institution: Which we submit to the meeting. (Signed)

Newport 6th month 16th 1847. James Austin Clerk.

The Committee appointed to visit subordinate meetings produced the following report, which has been read and accepted: And Falmouth, Smithfield Wolfallenough and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings consenting to omit reporting their State to this meeting the Committee was under appointment is continued (with the exception of our friend Lebon Peckham deceased) and requested to extend care to these and other subordinate meetings, as desired by minute of last year, and to report to our next Yearly Meeting. Viz.

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting.

The Committee appointed to visit Subordinate meetings Report, that some of their number have attended Rhode Island, Salem, Sandwich and Dover Quarterly Meetings and rendered such advice and assistance as in the present stripped condition of those meetings appeared to be required and they enabled to impart, to a good degree of satisfaction. — Circumstances have been such that the Committee have not attended Falmouth, Smithfield, Wolfallenough or Fairfield Quarterly Meetings. (Signed) John Wilbur } on behalf of
Newport 6 mo 16th 1847. Mary Cleaveland } the Committee.

The Committee appointed yesterday morning to consider the subject of the existing difficulties in society in the way of a regular proceeding in marriage, occasioned by the present unsettled state of things therein; produced

the following minute; which having been read and con=sidered is adopted and is directed to be entered on our records and transmitted to the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings which acknowledge their subordin=ation to this meeting. Viz:

"It is the conclusion of this meeting that for the present when cases occur of proposals for marriage by persons residing without the limits of this Yearly Meeting, or in Monthly Meetings within the Yearly Meeting where there has been no separation, that a satisfactory certificate from sound Friends who may reside within the limits of such Monthly Meeting or the vicinity thereof be received; in the same manner and for the same purpose as certificates have heretofore been received from Monthly Meetings.

The committee on the Appeal of Noah Winslow inform That they have paid attention to the subject but owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case are not ready to make a final report at this time. It is therefore continued under their care, and the Committee is requested to report next year.

A minute, which was read at our first sitting, of the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Ireland, held in Dublin in the Fourth and Fifth months 1846 in relation to the reception of the Epistle addressed thereto by this Meeting in 1845 is directed to be placed on file.

Adjourned to the Ninth hour tomorrow morning.

Sixth day Morning - the 18th - near the hour adjourned to the meeting assembled.

The representatives being called they were all present and answered to their names.

Essays of Epistles to the yearly meetings of Friends in Philadelphia and this having been produced and read; were respectively considered, united with and directed to be signed by the Clerk & forwarded.

The way not having opened to address an Epistle to either of the other yearly meetings this year.

The Clerk is authorized to make any necessary extracts from the minutes not already provided for, and to sign them on behalf of this meeting.

Under a renewed and humbling sense of Divine favour, by which we have been enabled harmoniously to conduct the weighty concerns which have come before us, we conclude, purposing to meet again on this Island in the Sixth month next, if consistent with the Divine Will.

Thomas B. Gould. Clerk.

# Epistle

From the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island, by adjournments, from the 13th. of the sixth month, to the 18th. of the same, inclusive, 1847,

To all the sincere and honest-hearted, making profession with Friends, wherever situated.

Dear Friends,

The present condition of our religious Society has occupied our most serious consideration during the time of this our annual assembly; and in view thereof we have felt engaged to address all those, however scattered their situation as to the outward, who have a concern to maintain those invaluable doctrines and testimonies which have been transmitted to us as a people, through the many tribulations, sufferings, and triumphs, of our faithful predecessors in the Truth. In prospect of this engagment, we have been brought renewedly under a sense of our own weakness and short comings, and our entire inability to do any good thing without the Lord's gracious help. Yet as we have endeavoured to place our dependence upon Him, in the midst of trials, deep and abiding, we trust there has been vouchsafed unto us a measure of that love unfeigned, which would gather and safely keep all within his holy enclosure.

It is well known that an extensive division has taken place within this Yearly Meeting, and that the same lamentable causes which have produced this result here, exist, in a greater or less degree, throughout the whole extent of the society. These causes are to be found in a departure from the primitive doctrines of Friends, a deviation from the straight and narrow path of our forefathers, a yielding up of the distinguishing characteristics of their faith, and a declention towards the worldly and literal professors which they came out from, and testified against, in the light and power of the Lord. The extensive dissemination of writings upon our doctrines, differing widely from those of the early Friends, and emanating from some who had attained a high standing and influence in the society, has been the fruitful source of evil. These writings, instead of being met and disavowed as they should

have been, unhappily found many advocates and supporters in various parts. The influence of wealth and learning aided in infusing the modified views into the society, which, alas! seems generally to have been but too well prepared for their reception, and great numbers have been found ready to acquiesce therein; thus bringing a weight of sorrow on the true burden bearers. The tendency to this state of things has long been seen by those whose spiritual eye has been kept single to the pointings of Truth, some of whom have finished their course and laid down their heads in peace, after having borne a faithful testimony against those innovations which would remove the ancient landmarks, break down the hedge that protects from the spirit of the world, and expose us to the ravages of the destroyer. They have also in some instances pointed out, with prophetic clearness, the result which this delusive spirit is hastening upon the society at large; even a sifting, as from sieve to sieve, and a great reduction of numbers therein. And it has been a remarkable feature in those testimonies, that they have almost uniformly embraced the view of a subsequent revival of primitive zeal in the society, and a flocking anew to the standard of Truth. May we not then, dear Friends, receive encouragement, although trials and crosses abound in our path, that as we are concerned to fight the good fight, and to keep the faith, possessing our souls in patience, we may, in our different allotments, be made instrumental in hastening the verification of those testimonies; and that we may, in due time, have to acknowledge, that hard things have been made easy and bitter things sweet, and that "the work of righteousness is peace, and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever."

But, inasmuch as we have reason to believe that there are some, perhaps many, among the class we are now addressing, whose chief desire it is that Truth should prevail, yet, from imperfect or erroneous information, have still some doubts as to the propriety of the course which Friends here have believed it right to pursue; we propose, briefly, to bring to view the general tendency and result of a difference of doctrinal principle in our religious society, and also to give a concise outline of some of the proceedings of those on whom the responsibility of this lamentable schism rests. In doing this, we desire we may not be understood by any thing herein expressed, to justify a seperation on any other ground than an irreconcilable

difference in principle; nor that we intend by any means to admit that we, in this case, although by far the smaller number, are sep-
and supporters of the unsound doctrines are seperatists
aralists, being fully able to show that the apologists, in every sense of the word; having, in the first place, seperated themselves from the principles and discipline of the society, by adopting new views in the one case, and violating the plain rights of meetings and individuals in the other; and lastly, they did, as will appear, without order and against discipline, withdraw from a duly authorized and regularly constituted meeting for discipline, while it was acting entirly in the order of Society.

And now we would ask, when any large portion of the successors of the first Friends, whose faith was so essentially different from all others, lose, or depart from, the distinguishing doctrines for which they so deeply suffered, and lean to the reverse, whilst another, and perhaps a smaller portion, hold fast their integrity, and the former will not, and the latter cannot, in good conscience, yield their opinions, what shall be done? Seeing there has never been, and in the nature of things cannot be, any order established or discipline instituted, providing a remedy for such cases; because the fundamental ground of the association is broken up by such departure.

It is clear that sound Friends ought not to be liable to bear the reproach of bad principles, any more than of bad conduct, as being allowed by the body.

When those who have violated the primitive ground, either by their own acknowledged defection of faith, or by defending unsound authors or leaders, are the majority, and have the power in their own hands; they have usually annoyed and oppressed the faithful members, endeavoring by coercive measures to bring them to a compliance with their own views, and a submission to their misrule; and, if not successful in this, to drive them out from among them. Yet in such case, it would unquestionably be the duty of the sound portion to labour for the restoration of the unsound portion, so long as a hope remains that such labors will be successful; and they should even be willing to submit to deep suffering and reproach in so good a cause, faithfully maintaining the true ground. And if those sufferings are borne in a spirit of meekness and patience, without effecting a return to first principles, the dominant party will be likely, as in this case in New England, to become the first to effect a seperation, and thus bring deliverance to those whom they have oppressed. But

But if this should not be the case, it seems to us all must admit, that after every effort has failed, and all hope is at an end, the time may come, when it would be the duty of the faithful members to come out from among those who have so apostatised, and to testify against them.

In regard to the New England seperation, it is true, as it has often been in similar cases elsewhere, that the seperatists have not ceased to have departed from the primitive ground, maintaining that they still hold our ancient doctrines; but the evidence that they have so departed is too abundant and too clear, as we believe, to be resisted by any candid mind. Passing over much of the testimony going to establish this point, we would remark, first, that no stronger evidence could be afforded of their attachment to the unsound doctrines, and the length they would go in support and defence of them, than the prostration of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, and the disownment of individuals, for no other reason than because of an uncompromising testimony against their unsound doctrines. It cannot avail them any thing to deny that these proceedings were on account of this testimony, since in their defence ("Narrative of facts and circumstances," &c.) they have not even paid to themselves in this particular, but their "Narrative" goes clearly to confirm the charge we have made against them, of upholding unsound doctrines. Second, all efforts, on the part of concerned Friends, to induce them to put forth a public condemnation and recantation of those unsound writings, have proved entirely unavailing. The Meeting for Sufferings was repeatedly desired, in the most earnest manner, by Friends in different parts of the Yearly Meeting, to do this, as being the only adequate means of restoring unity and harmony in the Society; but a deaf ear was turned to all such entreaties. Whether this would have been so, if they had not been favorable to the introduction of the unsound sentiments among us, we leave for all candid Friends to decide. Third, in close proximity with this refusal to testify against these doctrines, and in strong confirmation of their unsoundness in the faith, is the recent conduct of their supporters in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, — which meeting adopted a document prepared by its Meeting for Sufferings, condemnatory of the same doctrines against which we have borne testimony in New England, making extracts from the unsound writings, and contrasting them with those of our early Friends; and this document met with a very strenuous opposition in that yearly meet-

ing, from the same class who have upheld and united with the New England separatists.

The cause of the Hicksite seperation, and the present troubles, are both grounded upon defective points of doctrine, but not the same. The criterion by which Friends were governed, in acknowledging or rejecting the parties in the Hicksite times, was exclusively a doctrinal one. Those who had kept to the ancient doctrines were acknowledged and held to be in fellowship and unity with the Society, while those who held the Hicksite doctrines were rejected by all sound-friends. That decision was not grounded upon numbers on either side, nor upon the manner in which those bodies separated; nor yet upon the question, which party left the meeting-house when the separation took place, in the different Yearly Meetings; or there was an obvious difference, at different places, in most of these particulars. In Philadelphia, the Hicksites agreed by themselves upon holding a separate Yearly Meeting. In New York and Ohio, when those Yearly Meetings convened, there was a great strife, on the part of the Hicksites, for the possession of the clerk's table, which terminated, in both cases, in the withdrawal from the meeting-house of those who held the ancient faith. In Baltimore, where the sound Friends were very few, they concluded, in the absence of the others, upon holding a Yearly Meeting by themselves, according to the primitive order and doctrine of Friends, — and did so. And Baltimore Yearly Meeting, sustained in this manner, was, we believe, as readily recognized abroad, as a body in unity, as were any of the others, because, although very small, they held to the doctrines of Friends — a principle upon which all the Yearly Meetings, in their detached position from the Hicksites, were recognized & acknowledged, and not rejected under the imputation of not being constituted in accordance with the good order of our Society. The cause of those separations was the deciding point, and not the particular manner or form in which they transpired; for it was the defection in doctrine that was the root from which sprung all these various modes of bringing about the same thing, to wit, a separation in those different Yearly Meetings.

We hesitate not to express our unqualified belief, that in no one case, during the troubles of that day, was the necessity greater for those who remained faithful to our Christian doctrines & testimonies, to sustain their meetings, and thereby uphold the good order & discipline of the Society, which those separatists had perverted to the support of

unsound principles, than it was for sound Friends in New England to do the same in the like emergency; nor was there a case, within our knowledge, where such strenuous and long-continued efforts were made for the evident, nay, the avowed purpose of effecting a separation. We say the avowed purpose; for the Yearly Meeting's Committee, in one of their visits to South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, near the close of a meeting, seconded the proposition made by a disaffected member, that those in unity with said committee should hold a meeting by themselves. This design was not carried into effect; it being directed to by that Monthly Meeting, on the ground that it was a scheme for a separation, which they could not in any way countenance or encourage. This bold attempt, followed as it was by a series of measures rapidly pushed on, which for injustice & oppression we believe have rarely, if ever, been equalled in the Society, tended still further to open the eyes of Friends to the danger which awaited this people, and the sufferings to which the faithful were likely to be exposed.

A vigorous effort was made by the Yearly Meeting's committee, in conjunction with another appointed by Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, to control the Monthly Meeting in its action on an important individual case, deeply involving the doctrinal question—a case, too, which the first-named committee had introduced into the Monthly Meeting for its consideration and decision. The Monthly Meeting was given clearly to understand, that the continuation of its existence would be made to depend upon a compliance with the wishes of these Committees, although against its own deliberate and conscientious judgment. Friends of that meeting not daring to forego their own convictions of right, formed, as they believed, in the light of Truth, to gratify any man or body of men, the case was decided in accordance with those convictions. For thus adhering to its own sense of truth and justice, the Monthly Meeting, in accordance with the previous intimations, was speedily dissolved. So precipitately was this work performed, that the express and plain provisions of our discipline, protecting its rights, were entirely disregarded. And although the case before spoken of had been thus decided and finished in South Kingstown Monthly Meeting, it was, nevertheless, taken to another; and there, upon the same complaint, the individual who had been restored was disowned, under the immediate action and influence of those who at first brought the accusations against him, and that too, pending an appeal to the Yearly Meeting against the dissolution of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting.

All this, and much more of a like nature, for which neither discipline nor precedent can be found, but which it would exceed the limits of this essay to rehearse; was patiently borne by Friends.* They chose rather to suffer the appointed time, than to take any step which might look like rashness; standing resigned even to submit to disownment if it should be permitted, which to all outward appearance was to be the case, for the report went abroad that a few were to be disowned, which would put an end to the difficulty. But He who hears and regards the feeble petitions of his dependent children, saw meet to effect our deliverance in another way; even to suffer these excesses to be carried to the extent of an actual seperation, on the part of the Yearly and Quarterly Meeting's Committees, and those who sustained them. This seperation, which took place in Swanzey Monthly Meeting, another branch of Rhode Island Quarter originated from the same cause as the difficulties in South Kingstown, namely, the dissemination of unsound doctrines. The Yearly and Quarterly Meetings' Committees there, as in South Kingstown, took sides with the apologists and abettors of these doctrines and their authors, and manifested a determination to control the action of that Monthly Meeting, and to prevent any, except such as were favorable to them and their measures, from being appointed to any service therein. And finally, failing in their efforts to drive the clerk from the table, and in that way to get control of the meeting, they, in an unauthorized and turbulent manner, without producing any credentials to show that they had a right to act at all, named another person to act as clerk, and directed him to proceed with the business of the meeting; while the regular clerk, who had never been displaced, but had uniformly been acknowledged as such, both by the Quarterly Meeting and its committee; and by the Yearly Meeting's Committee also, was engaged in the regular discharge of his duties at the table. Not having succeeded in preventing the business of the meeting from being transacted in a regular and orderly manner, they with their party withdrew, and left the house occupied by the Monthly Meeting, which proceeded with the business according to discipline and good order, as before.

In consequence of these extraordinary and unexampled proceedings of the Yearly and Quarterly Meeting's Committees & their

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* For a more extended and particular account of these events, see John Wilbur's "Narrative and Exposition;" "Address" of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, 1845; "Epistolary Declaration and Testimony," by New England Yearly Meeting, and also a pamphlet entitled "Considerations addressed to the members of the Yearly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia," published in 1846.

supporters, two reports sent up to the Quarterly Meeting purporting to emanate from Swanzey Monthly Meeting, which was the occasion of a painful crisis there; but the clerk, who was an active member of the Yearly Meeting's committee which had so long acted with Kingstown and Swanzey Monthly Meetings, and finally effected this separation in the latter, made a minute receiving the report from the spurious body claiming to be Swanzey Monthly Meeting, thus newly set up, and thereby identified the Quarterly Meeting with those separatists. Under these very trying circumstances, Friends who were for maintaining the doctrines, testimonies, and discipline of the Society in their purity, saw no way to do so but to appoint another person for clerk, and proceed with the business; leaving those who had acknowledged a body of separatists, and thereby become such themselves, to proceed in their own way. Soon after this, the "Address" from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting to the members of the south within the limits of New England Yearly Meeting and elsewhere, giving an account of their proceedings and the state of things among us, was prepared and published, which we would recommend to the serious perusal of all honest Friends.

The Meeting for Sufferings had also issued a circular, in which they not only defended the disorderly proceedings of those who had separated as above stated, but denounced the Quarterly Meeting which acknowledged the legitimate Swanzey Monthly Meeting, and stigmatized the members thereof as separatists, taking measures to prevent Friends elsewhere from acknowledging them as members. But let it be distinctly borne in mind, that not the Yearly Meeting's committee only (which claimed to be clothed with all the authority of the Yearly Meeting itself, and which by long continued and unremitting exertion had effected this separation) was now committed in favour of of these measures, but the Meeting for Sufferings also, which is authorized to act for the Yearly Meeting in its recess, now came forward to their aid, and thus prejudged the great question which was afterwards to come before the Yearly Meeting for decision. When it is remembered that these two bodies included almost all the active and influential members of the Yearly Meeting, who had for a considerable time wholly controlled its proceedings, the situation of Friends here will be more fully comprehended.

In addition to this, efforts were made in some if not all the Quarterly Meetings, which were of course generally successful, to appoint representatives to the Yearly Meeting who were favorable

to the contesting party; and in some cases prescriptive measures were resorted to, to prevent the appointment of others to that service, with an evident view to the decision of the question, which was afterwards attempted to be referred to them; it having been known for more than six months before the Yearly Meeting occurred, that there were two bodies claiming to be Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting. In one of our eastern Quarters the members of a whole Monthly Meeting were excluded from being appointed, as well as from naming others for representatives to the Yearly Meeting, on the ground that they were not in unity with the body! As was to be expected, there were among the representatives from the different Quarters, several members of the Yearly Meeting's Committee, and of the Meeting for Sufferings.

At the opening of the Yearly Meeting, in the 6th. month, 1845, two reports were presented, and two sets of representatives in attendance, each claiming to come from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting. The report from that meeting which had recognized and acknowledged the separate body in Swanzey was first read, and the names of its representatives entered upon the minutes as from Rhode Island, in connection with those from the other Quarters, and afterwards the report of the true Quarterly Meeting and the names of its representatives were read and minuted as purporting to come from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting. It was then proposed by a member of the Yearly Meeting's Committee, that the question, thus brought to the consideration of the Yearly Meeting, should be submitted to the representatives from the different Quarters except Rhode Island for decision. This proposition was declined on the part of the representatives from the ancient Quarterly Meeting of Rhode Island, on the ground that it was an unfair tribunal, many of the members of which had already in the most decided manner given a judgment in the case. The Rhode Island Representatives proposed, however, that the matter should be brought before the Yearly Meeting at large, and there be fully investigated and decided, as some important questions in the Society had been in former times, in order that all the members might have a fair opportunity to learn the facts of the case, and be able to decide for themselves. This proposition was disregarded, and the separation in the Yearly Meeting followed, the particulars of which we have heretofore published, and need not now repeat. *

In regard to a reference of the matter to the representatives, we have only to ask every honest and candid Friend calmly to consider

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* See "Epistolary Declaration and Testimony."

the circumstances in which Friends here were placed, and then answer to himself whether they ought under those circumstances to have submitted a question of such moment, to a body of men appointed as we have shown these representatives were, and having the combined influence and prior judgment of the Yearly Meetings Committee, and the Meeting for Sufferings against us; and when, too, the several separate Monthly Meetings within the limits of Rhode Island Quarter had proceeded, under the immediate sanction and control of the most prominent members of these two bodies, so far as to disown many Friends who were then sitting in the Yearly Meeting. It did appear to us, that to have agreed to such a reference with the certainty there was of an adverse decision, which could have been claimed to be conclusive of the whole matter at issue in this momentous case, would have been unwise, and might justly have subjected us to the charge of unfaithfulness in a most important crisis.

We do not feel that it is needful for us to proceed further in justification of the course we have taken, in order to convince those whom we are now addressing of the necessity of that course, and the justice of our cause. No other way appeared to open in the light of truth, than that we pursued; which did appear in the united judgment of Friends to be the right way; nor are we now able to see what other could have been under the circumstances, to sustain the primitive principles and order of the Society, or to secure the peace of our own minds. And we feel willing to leave the result with Him who can, and will, make all things work together for good to those who in sincerity desire and endeavor to do His will.

There may possibly even yet be some honest Friends who, for want of sufficient information, may think that a reconciliation of these difficulties might have been effected; but those who have been personally acquainted with the movements of the ruling party for a number of years past, and have witnessed the spirit by which they have been actuated, can see no way in which a sound adjustment could have been or can now be effected, any more than the same could have been done between our early Friends and their enemies, or between Friends of later time and the Hicksites. Can any one explain how those controversies could have been reconciled, short of a concession on the part of those who denied the doctrines of our society by the admission of opposite views; or else, by uniting with them, in support of those views? To suppose that the early Friends could have been united in a religious point of view with the formal and liberal professors of that day, or more modern Friends with Hicksites,

or we with the supporters of these new doctrines, appears to us to savor too much of the impracticable idea of an amalgamation of all denominations without rejecting the creed of any.

Thus, dear Friends, we have endeavoured to place before [illegible] separation in this Yearly Meeting, bringing to view that defection which has been the occasion of so much trouble within our once peaceful inclosure, dividing as in Jacob and scattering in Israel, leaving us a remnant stripped and peeled, so that many of us have often felt that we could adopt the language of the apostle, "we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet, on looking back upon the probations and conflicts through which we have had to pass, we can plainly discern the workings of the Divine hand for our support, through these deep and varied trials, poor and unworthy as we are; which [illegible] we make with reverence, and a desire to be enabled to His goodness, and adore His great and holy Name.

And now we feel our minds drawn towards you in near and tender sympathy, and with living desires for your preservation & establishment in the unchangeable Truth, and in a faithful support of [illegible] testimonies, we believe, are now in great [illegible], in consequence of prevailing indifference and unfaithfulness in many who are making profession of them, as well as because of the continued dissemination throughout the Society, of the unsound principles which have wrought so great mischief within our borders. "

"A concern on this account has spread over our solemnities, wherein has been witnessed a covering and overshadowing of that one Spirit, as we trust, which baptizeth all the living members into the one body, even into Christ, the head of the living body; and in this only it is that we can, whether individually or collectively, encourage and strengthen one another in holding fast our Christian profession and confidence in the Lord. "

How precious, dear Friends, is that faith which was committed to our forefathers in the Truth, having this seal to its excellency and efficacy, as marked by the apostle, that it purifies the heart; whilst all spurious and merely literal confessions are defective in this great essential, of producing sanctification in man. The true faith in the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour necessarily has this characteristic of purifying the heart, because it most clearly comprehends that which is not among the least of the means appointed and ordained for the

accomplishment of such a work, namely, self-denial; an indispensable requisite for the subjugation of the carnal will of man, and for mortifying the deeds of the flesh, as demonstrated in the teaching of Christ our Lord. And, so far as any attempts have been made to modify and literalize the faith of the Gospel, so much has been undertaken to remove the restraints of the Cross of Christ from the practical observance of his professed followers; and to frustrate the work of its power upon their hearts, as well as to prevent the accomplishment of its purpose.

But we feel concerned to invite all the sincere professors under our name, to seek the Lord Jesus whilst He may be found of them, and to call upon Him whilst He is near unto them; asking of him, in all sincerity, that he would instruct them in the way of his counsels appertaining to eternal life; and that he would give them willing hearts to endure all things needful for their purification, and furtherance in the way of peace and rest; nothing doubting of the justness of his requiring a faithful and unreserved obedience and dedication to his testimonies, looking at principle, and to the blessedness of pleasing God, rather than to consequences that may follow, knowing this, that He will pour out of his blessings upon those who fear before Him, and keep his commandments, however solitary their condition may be; though literally, as said the prophet, one of a city and two of a family, yet He who is omnipresent and omnipotent will be with these solitary ones, as their trust is not in an arm of flesh, but in Him alone; and He will water them as with the waters of Shiloh, and light them with the day-spring from on high; He will lengthen their cords, and strengthen their stakes; enabling them to break forth both on the right hand and on the left, making them as fruitful plants in his own garden; and, as He said touching the branch of his own planting, a little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation, that He may be glorified; for He declared that He would hasten it in his own time.

Remember, that the greater the conflicts which we have to endure, whether of the flesh or of the spirit, if permitted by the Lord for our proving and sanctification, and if endured with patience and in the obedience of faith, the greater will be our enlargement of heart, and the more will be the aboundings of God's love towards us, as a reward for our faithfulness; and also for our support and safe keeping in the hour of great tribulation and temptation.

Is there not great encouragement in the life and deepexer=
cises of our eminent predecessor, George Fox, when in his youth, and, as
it were, alone in the world, — sorely tempted of the enemy within, and
cruelly buffeted and persecuted of man without, — he had none to look to
for sympathy or counsel, but his Divine Master alone? For in that
day there were none among men to be found, who understood his condit=
ion, or that could fathom the depth of the work assigned him, or aid him
therein.

Well, beloved Friends, the testimony and doctrines which
he and his fellow-laborers were constrained to promulgate, are the same
which [illegible] in this, our day, is not comparable with that which they suffered; never=
theless, according to the day, so faith and strength were given them; and
truly, those who are now under the greatest discouragement as to their
condition, if they are blessed with the proportion of faith requisite to
their necessities, have no occasion to faint under the pressure of discourage=
ment; for He who sustained the faithful in former days, will most surely
sustain and uphold such under their greatest trials, as the eye is kept sin=
gly directed unto Him, inwardly waiting with their minds stayed upon
Him, to receive their present help in every needful time. The burden
of George Fox's mission and ministry was to bring the people off from the
ministry and preaching of men; from the teaching of those who were
not commissioned of Christ, nor taught in the truth, but were only
taught in the schools of men; making a trade of preaching, and turning
the people from Christ unto themselves. They knew not where nor how
to find the Saviour; and therefore knew not where to direct the people,
so that they might seek him and find him for themselves.

But it was not so with George Fox. He had been taught
in the school of Christ; had learned of the immediate teachings of
his Lord and Master; had taken many lessons from the volumn of
Heavenly Wisdom; and had solved many mysteries by the help of Christ,
and without the help of any man; for he had not an earthly friend that
could direct him how and where to find the beloved of his soul, or to instruct
him in the way he should go. But God, in due time, rent the veil, and re=
=vealed his Son in him, and was present with him; nor did he ever fail to
give him wisdom and strength sufficient for the work assigned him in the
needful time. Well then, how much cause had he to direct the people to Christ
for counsel and wisdom, for help and strength to withstand the temptations
of the enemy of their souls, and to enable them to understand and do what=
soever He should call for at their hands, bearing witness faithfully to that

life which was in Christ, and which is in Christ; by the evangelist declared to be the light of men; and he testified of the glory of it, for [illegible] and indispensable barrier & discerning unto men, of the good and the evil, of clearly distinguishing the one from the other, and giving an impression to choose the one and refuse the other. This life which, in its fulness and power, dwelleth in Christ, is Christ, and is inseparable from him, and was declared by the apostle John to be that true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. This life, or quickening spirit, which knocketh at the door of man's heart, is that alone which maketh him alive unto God, and without which he is dead, and has no life in him; and hath no power to resist the evil of his own fallen nature, or the temptations of the wicked one. This life and Light is again called the Lord from Heaven, a quickening spirit, by whose power it is that we are raised from dead works to serve the living God. Again, this life and Light is called Christ in man, the hope of his glory; and it is declared, that except this be in him he is a reprobate. No marvel, then, that our early Friends so frequently and so earnestly directed the people to Christ for their teacher, their helper & deliverer.

And we feel much concern and deep solicitude, dear friends, that all who are looking for salvation through his Name, whether present or absent, may not only acknowledge His coming in that prepared body, to offer himself a sacrifice for the forgiveness of penitent sinners, once for all, but that all may, in a living faith, look for his second appearing (as was his first) without sin unto salvation, — unto [illegible] without sin, [illegible] of the blood of Christ, which is the life of Christ, so that we may not only find forgiveness of our sins, but a sanctifier of our hearts, and a Guide into all truth; who is able "having reconciled us by his death, to save us by his life," and thereby to preserve us, if we dwell in Him, from sinning any more.

This was the great doctrine of Christ and his apostles, and the concern of our forefathers, having witnessed, in their own experience, the consolation of the gospel promises, of the coming of Christ, the holy anointing into their souls, whereby deliverance was wrought in them from the powers of darkness, and their hearts were filled with the goodness of a Saviour's presence and the joys of his salvation.

And as He, the Lord, is witnessed to dwell in the heart and [illegible] and his haughtiness is laid low, and the Lord alone is exalted in that day"; then all old things are done away, and behold all things become new; then

how instructive the language to the Church, "Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse; come, look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon, from the lions' dens, from the mountains of the leopards;" away from all of man that is lofty and lifted up; away from all that would rend or destroy the heavenly birth. Oh for the sparing of this heavenly birth, of a new-born nature in man! the seed of the sower springing up and opening to fruitfulness, in the good ground of an honest heart! Oh that all might dwell here, and be faithful in the culture of this good ground, so that this seed of the Kingdom may have depth of earth to take root downward, and room to shoot forth upward, to the yielding of such a harvest as will bring honour and praise to the great Husbandman, and a crown of immortality to those who have parted with all for the purchase of this heavenly treasure.

It is not the hearers of the law, but the doers of the law of Christ, that shall be justified. It is not merely by the profession of a belief in Christ that we shall be saved; because there are thousands who thus believe in him, and trust in his atoning sacrifice to save them, who nevertheless remain in their sins, and know not the new birth of the Spirit, or a being born again of that incorruptible seed and word of God, that liveth and abideth for ever; having never submitted to Christ's baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. These are deceiving themselves, and will never, while in this state, attain to the rest of the people of God, not having received Christ in the way of his spiritual coming, as a refiner with fire, and a fuller with soap, or as a messenger of glad tidings to their souls and in their souls; having only known of him by the hearing of the ear, but whose eyes have never seen him, and whose hearts have never known the sanctifying power of his spirit to [illegible] them from the corruption and bondage of sin; having known only the one half of the covenant, and that merely by the hearing of the ear, they are strangers to, and have rejected the blessed messenger of it to their souls, by refusing to be purged from sin by his baptism, not understanding the mystery of wisdom, that God will not dwell with iniquity; that where he reigns [illegible] with and over sin there [illegible].

Oh then, dear Friends, let us embrace the whole Christian covenant, not merely in word and in tongue, but in deed and in truth. Let none of us mistake what the true ground of Christian redemption is; or the conditions on which we can please God and be saved. Of this we may be assured, that the will and wisdom of man and the image of the beast must be first slain and purged out from the inner man, in order to make way for the new creation and restoration of God's

image there, whereby we may be enabled to walk in newness of life, and in the faith of the sure fulfilment of the Divine promises, which are to those who depart from all iniquity — that keep his commandments and hold out to the end, as declared of Christ to the churches, "to him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which standeth in the midst of the paradise of God."

The Saviour did not say to the people around him, ye may eat of your own bread and wear your own apparel, only call yourselves by my name, and ye shall be my disciples! Nay, verily! — but [illegible] "Except a man [illegible] he cannot be my disciple." There is a corrupt disposition in the natural man which nothing save the power of the cross can effectually overcome. But this is to be remembered for our consolation, that a perfect submission to the cross of Christ makes it easy to be borne, and its burden to be light; and then again for the finishing of our faith, be it known, that the death of the cross was succeeded by a glorious and triumphant resurrection to eternal glory; and that every one who cheerfully lays down his life of sin and corruption, for Christ's sake, shall have part with him in the first resurrection, over which the second death hath no power!

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting aforesaid.

Thomas B. Gould, Clerk.
Martha S. Gould, Clerk.

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held in Rhode Island, commencing with public Meetings for worship at Newport, on First day the Eleventh of Sixth Month 1848, and on Second day morning the Twelfth for Discipline.

Accounts are received from Rhode Island, Salem, Sandwich and Dover Quarterly Meetings, by which it appears that the following have been appointed representatives to this meeting; Viz— From Rhode Island — John Wilbur, William Slade, Oliver Chace, John Mitchell, Obadiah Foster, Harvey Chace, John T. Kenyon and Thomas B. Gould.

From Salem — [illegible] William B. Oliver, Nathan Page and George F. Read.

From Sandwich — [illegible] Davis, Benjamin Tucker, Benjamin Gardner and Peleg Mitchell; From Dover — William Hill Pelatiah Hussey, Aaron Varney and Joseph Meader. Whose names being called they were all present except one.

No account has been received at this time from either Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalborough or Fairfield Quarterly Meetings.—

The relation in which we now stand to other Yearly Meetings of Friends and the subject of addressing Epistles to them as in former years; again claiming the serious attention of this Meeting the following named Friends have been set apart for the further consideration of the subject, namely; Peleg Mitchell Francis Taber, Prince Gardner, George F. Read, William Hill, Seth Davis, Obadiah Foster, Harvey Chace Charles Perry, Israel Buffinton, Valentine Meader, Nathan Page, Thomas B. Gould, Pelatiah Hussey and Joseph Meader; and they are requested to lay the result of their deliberations upon it before a future sitting of this meeting.—

[illegible] close of this sitting and propose to the next; the

names of Friends to serve the meeting as Clerk and Assistant the present year.

[illegible] to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, Friends assembled near the Fourth hour; the representatives from [illegible] not being now present.

Nathan Page on behalf of the representatives reported that most of them had been together and agreed to propose the name of Thomas B. Gould for Clerk and of Charles Perry for Assistant clerk; whose names having been separately considered and approved, they are accordingly appointed to those services for the ensuing year.—

The meeting proceeded to read the Queries with the answers thereto which were gone through with and the following Summary is directed to be recorded.

[illegible] to the records to remain [illegible]

That all our meetings for religious worship and discipline have been duly held and attended generally by the most of our members; yet three of the Quarterly Meetings report deficiencies on the part of some, in the attendance of mid-week meetings and those for discipline; the hour is generally observed. A few instances of sleeping are noticed in each of the reports— of other unbecoming behaviour clear. Two of the accounts state that some care has been taken in regard to these deficiencies.

2nd. Love and unity appear to be in good measure maintained amongst us and detraction guarded against: It is reported by each of the Quarterly meetings that no differences are known to exist.

3d. It appears that most Friends endeavour to bring up those under their care in plainness of speech behaviour and apparel, to restrain them from reading pernicious books, and the corrupt conversation of the world; and that they are generally exemplary therein themselves. The Holy Scriptures appear to be [illegible] in Friends families.

4th. Friends appear to be exercised in relation

to the several parts of this query, with an exception made in one account of a few instances of attending places of public resort unnecessarily.-

Ans 5th. It appears that the circumstances of the poor are inspected, and their necessities relieved, and that their children partake of learning to fit them for business. None are reported as being placed out from among Friends.

Ans: 6th. Most Friends appear careful in the observance of this [illegible] of the youth is not manifest that regard for the Discipline in this important engagement, that would be best; and another, reports one or two cases of marrying out of the order of Society, in which some care has been taken.

Ans: 7th. From the reports of three of the Quarterly Meetings there does not appear to be, with them, any [illegible] matters embraced in this Query; and from the other report, it appears that Friends are careful therein, except [illegible] meetings where Priest's wages are paid on which account some care has been extended.

Ans: 8th. It appears that Friends are generally careful to inspect their affairs, and mostly so, in the timely settlement of their accounts; and that they are punctual to their payments [illegible] and careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

Ans: 9th. Friends appear mostly careful as to their accounts. Several instances of removal without certificates are reported some of which are under notice.

Ans: 10th. It appears that care has been taken to deal with offenders in some measure according to the requirements of the Discipline: but from the peculiar circumstances in which Friends are placed some exceptions are made: endeavours are used to place judgment where it appears necessary in the authority of Truth according to our Discipline. —

During the consideration of the State of Society ~~was~~ as brought into view by the reading of the Queries and the answers received from the subordinate branches, the minds of concerned Friends were introduced into a lively exercise and travail of spirit for the welfare of Zion and the enlargement of her borders. - Friends were exhorted to a diligent attendance of our re= =ligious meetings; and feelingly reminded of the duty of retiring for that purpose from our ordinary avoca= =tions in the middle of the week, under a sense of the [illegible] from too close an attachment to the things of this [illegible] even on other occasions, for the acceptable worship of Him, who mercifully regardeth the willing sacrifice of a contrite heart.

The silent burden bearers whose secret exercises for the welfare of the church are sensibly felt therein and strengthening the savour of their spirits being truly comforting to the living members of the body who are called to labour more publicly for the advancement of the Redeemers king= =dom - were encouraged to faithfulness in their respective allotments of service and to endeavour to maintain their standing as upright Pillars in the Lords house, upon [illegible] they may be favoured to experience the fulfilment of the gracious promise; "Him that overcometh will I make a Pillar in the Temple of my God and he shall go no more out;" and that the precious Doctrines of the Gospel with the Testimonies ever maintained by the faithful amongst us, may continue to be supported, as in former years, to the Lords honour and the Cause of Truth and [illegible].

Adjourned to the Tenth hour to morrow morning. -

[illegible]

Friends met pursuant to adjournment. The names of [illegible] are all present.

By the records received from North Ireland, Salem,

that those meetings have respectively been held at the same times and places as reported to this meeting last year, with the exception of Salem and Rhode Island Quarterly the former having been held at Salem in the fifth month instead of Lynn; and the latter at North Providence in the Second month last instead of Providence as heretofore; and Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting requests liberty from this Meeting to hold their Winter Quarter in future at the usual time in the Second Month at North Providence.

The request of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting for liberty to hold that Meeting in future at the usual time in the Second Month at North Providence instead of Providence having been considered and allowed with the concurrence of the Womens Meeting, said Meeting is left at liberty to meet there accordingly, and the Clerk is directed to furnish Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting with a copy of this minute.

Under a consideration of the difficulties and inconveniencies to which Friends in divers places are still subjected, in consequence of the late Separation, with regard to holding our Religious Meetings, it is again concluded to extend the liberty heretofore granted to the several Quarterly Meetings to meet according to the present arrangement for another year, or if from the circumstances stated it shall appear to them necessary to change the times or places of assembling they are left at liberty to do so, and are requested to report such changes, if any, to this meeting next year.

Rhode Island, Salem, Sandwich and Dover Quarterly Meetings inform that they have directed their respective proportions of Yearly Meeting Stock to be paid to our

Samuel B. Chace, Amos C. Wilbur, David Buffum William B. Oliver, Peleg Mitchell, George W. Eddy, William Hill and Orlentine Meader are appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers accounts, consider of a sum to be raised for the use of this meeting the present year, and to propose a Treasurer. —

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting informs that it has united with
public appearance in the Ministry of Christopher C.
Hussey. —

We are also informed that Rhode Island, Salem, Sand-
wich and Dover Quarterly Meetings have received an
directed to be forwarded thereto by this meeting last
year. —

The Committee appointed last year on the Appeal
of Noah Winslow from the decision of Falmouth Quart-
erly Meeting confirming the judgment of Windham
Monthly Meeting in denying him the right of member-
and after due consideration, it is accepted, and the
case dismissed: and he not being present to hear
Austin is appointed to inform him thereof and requ-
-ed to report to this meeting next year. Viz.
of Ohio England Yearly Meeting of Friends
Sibleys

Dear Friends. We your Committee appointed
last year on the subject of Noah Winslow's Appeal,
from the judgment of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting
in disowning him, report: That after a patient and
will admit of, they have come to the conclusion
that with the present amount of testimony in the case
it will not be prudent nor safe for the Yearly Meet-
ing to reverse the doings of the aforesaid Meetings: —
All of which we submit to the meeting.
6th mo. 13th 1848.

Peleg Mitchell. Seth Davis.
Thomas Austin
George W. Eddy. Joseph Meader.
William B. Oliver. Timothy Varney.
Thomas S. Perry.
Harvey Chace. Thomas Wilbur. "

Adjourned to the First day next Morning.

Afternoon. Friends again assembled according to adjournment.

The Committee appointed at a previous sitting to examine and settle the Treasurers accounts, and for other purposes produced the following Report, which has been read and accepted. The proposition contained therein to raise Three Hundred Dollars for the use of this meeting the coming year; and also the nomination of [illegible] Treasurer are approved; and he is accordingly appointed Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting for the year ensuing or until another appointment and our Quarterly Meetings are requested to raise & forward to him their respective proportions of Yearly Meeting Stock.

" To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

We the Committee appointed to Audit & settle accounts of the [illegible], and for other purposes, Report,

That we have attended to the service assigned us and find that all our Quarterly Meetings have paid their respective proportions of Yearly Meeting Stock and that the Treasury has received from the hands of the Treasurer the sum of Thirty-six dollars & Sixty-six cents. We are united in the opinion that Three Hundred Dollars would be a suitable sum to be raised to defray the expenses of the meeting the ensuing year, and also in proposing Israel Buffington for Treasurer.

(Signed) On behalf of the Committee
Newport 6th mo: 13th. 1848. Valentine Wanderer.

The following [illegible] to effect a transfer of our School Fund from the former to the present Treasurer, has been received and read; and although it does not appear that success has attended their labours hitherto, the Report is accepted; and the Friends now under appointment, Viz: William Hill, Charles Peny, George F. Read and Benjamin Tucker are continued in charge of this subject for another year and desired to avail themselves of the earliest

opportunity which may rightly open to accomplish the the object for which they were originally appointed by this meeting: And Harvey Chace is also continued and appointed Treasurer of the School Fund until another appointment shall be made by this meeting.

At the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

The Committee appointed to call upon the former Treasurer of The School Fund for a transfer of that fund to the present Treasurer; Report, that no way has appeared to open within the past year for us to advance in the service assigned us, in consequence of the refusal of the former Treasurer of that Fund to make a transfer of it, unless compelled by law to do so; which we have reason to believe continues to be the determination of those who now have con=trol of said fund. (signed)

Newport 6th Month 13th. 1848. William Hill. on behalf of the Committee.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been produced and read are satisfactory to this Meeting. And Francis Taber, Thos Wilbur, William Slade, William B. Oliver, Nathan Page, Prince Gardner, William Hill, George W. Eddy, Israel Buffinton, Peleg Mitchell, Valentine Meader and Charles Perry are appointed to consider of and produce at a future Sitting a list of the names of suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to the Tenth hour to-morrow morning.

Fourth day morning the Fourteenth of the month - Pursuant to adjournment, Friends again met.

The names of the representatives being called they are all present.

Testimonies of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting; approved by Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, and, after examination, directed to be laid before this meeting by the Meeting for Sufferings, concerning our late beloved Friends, James Tucker, and his wife Sarah Tucker, were produced and read.

The usual service attending the reading of both

these Memorials of our dear departed Friends has been truly refreshing and encouraging to us, and they were respectively and feelingly united with and directed to be recorded. [ See page 148 to 152 ]

The Committee charged with attention to the concerns of our Boarding School at Providence produced a report which has been read; and although it appears therefrom, that owing to existing circumstances, no opportunity for action in regard to the School has occurred, yet, the report is accepted and the Friends now under appointment; Viz, Hezekiah Barnard, Prince Gardner, George F Read, Francis Taber Junr, Thomas Foster, Seth Davis, William Hill, James Austin, Charles Perry, William B. Oliver, Israel Buffinton, David Buffum, Thomas Wilbur, Palmer Chace, George ell. Eldy, Harvey Chace, Relation Hussey, Peleg Mitchell, Aaron Varney, Jonathan Nichols and John T. Kinyon are continued (in conjunction with such Committee as may be appointed by the womens Meeting, and they are desired to pay the necessary attention to the objects for which they were originally appointed and to report to this meeting next year. The Report is as follows.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed to have charge of the Boarding School at Providence, report - That as the Institution together with its funds still remains under the control of those who have separated from Friends, way has not opened for us to take any part in its concerns during the past year.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Newport 6th Month 13th 1848. by Jonathan Nichols
Mary Buffinton.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon Friends assembled pursuant to adjournment.

The joint Committee of men and women Friends appointed last year to visit subordinate meetings produced the following report; which has been read and accepted. viz:

To the yearly Meeting now Sitting.

The Committee appointed last year to visit, and extend exlend such advice to subordinate meetings as might appear necessary, and also if way opened for it, to visit those Quarterly Meetings within the limits of this yearly Meeting, which have not acknowledged their subordination to us: Report, that they have attended to the object of their appointment so far as to visit the Quarterly Meetings which have been sustained in sub=ordination to the Yearly Meeting, to good satisfaction; but the way has not appeared to open to extend any care to that of ~~of~~ Smithfield, Falmouth, Vassal=borough or Fairfield during the past year.

Signed on behalf of the Committee

Newport 14th of 6th Month 1848. Peleg Mitchell

Mary Macy.

And this Meeting being brought into much exercise under a serious consideration of the situation of Fal=mouth, Smithfield Vassalborough and Fairfield Quart=erly Meetings after a time of weighty deliberation thereon, Thomas B. Gould, Nathan Page, Prince Gardner, William Hill Seth Davis, Timothy Varney, Ebenezer Austin, Peleg Mitchell, Israel Buffinton, Joseph Meader and Job Eddy are appointed to labour with those Quarterly Meetings if way should appear to open for it in the Truth, in conjunction with such Committee as may be appointed by the womens Meeting, for their help and restoration to right order and to a conformity with our Ancient Principles and Testimonies; and they are requested to report next year, what course, in their judgment will be best for this meeting to pursue in regard to those Quarterly Meetings respectively.

The Committee appointed yesterday afternoon to propose the names of suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings, Reported the following, viz: Francis Taber, Hezakiah Swain, John Wilbur, Hezakiah Barnard, Seth Davis, Job Eddy, Jon=athan Nichols, Henry Gould, Prince Gardner, Oliver Chace, Nathan Page, John Mitchell, Thomas Wilbur, Thomas B Gould, Joseph Meader William Hill, Benjamin Tucker, Harvey Chace,

Othniel Foster, Palmer Chace, Nathan Buffington, Peleg Mitchell, Benjamin Gardner, William Slade, George W. Eddy, George C. Kenyon, George H. Read, John T. Kenyon, William B. Oliver, Thomas K. Wilbur, Charles Perry, Ethan Foster, James C. Wilbur, James Austin, Israel Buffington, Thomas Foster, Timothy Varney, Samuel B. Chace, James L. Peckham, Francis Asher Jun$^{r}$, Pelatiah Hussey, Valentine Mendon, Samuel Sheffield, Christopher C. Hussey, and Thomas P. Nichols; which having been approved by this meeting these Friends are accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year or until another appointment; and they are desired to attend to such subjects, affecting the welfare of our Religious Society as may properly claim their attention, according to the original constitution of that meeting.

Adjourned to the Third hour to morrow afternoon.

Fifth day afternoon - the Fifteenth of the month. Near the hour of adjournment, Friends again met: and the names of the representatives being called they are all present.

The committee to whom the subject of the relation in which we now stand to other Yearly Meetings of Friends was referred for consideration, as also the propriety of our again addressing them by way epistolary communications - produced an essay of an Epistle to the next yearly meeting of Friends in Ohio to be held at Mount Pleasant - which being read and approved it is directed to be signed by the Clerk on our behalf and forwarded. The Committee also reported that way did not open in their minds to address any other Yearly Meeting in that way at this time.

The Clerk is authorized to make the necessary extracts from our minutes, not already provided for, and to sign them on behalf of this meeting. -

Having been enabled through Divine Goodness to transact the important concerns which have claimed the attention of this Yearly meeting in much brotherly love and condescension - under a grateful sense of the continued favour of the Great Head of the Church we conclude - purposing to meet again on this Island in the Sixth month next, if the Lord permit.

Thomas B. Gould. Clerk.

# Testimony
## of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends concerning James Tucker, deceased.

The removal by death of our beloved friend James Tucker, being sensibly felt to be a loss to this part of the Militant Church, we feel engaged to furnish a short testimony concerning his exemplary life, and zealous labours for the promotion of truth & righteousness amongst us, and to encourage survivors to to follow him, as he endeavoured to follow Christ.

He was born in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, the 27th. of 4th. month, 1777. His parents, John & Rhoda Tucker, were members of the religious Society of Friends; as Elders were worthy Elder, for many years, — they manifested by precept and example much solicitude for their children's advancement in the truth, which probably contributed in some degree to form that religious character in the subject of this memoir, which was discernible in him in after life, although when quite young, he was of a lively turn of mind. In the 20th. year of his age, he was married to Phebe, daughter of Benjamin & Sylvia Wilbur of Dartmouth; she was an affectionate companion until her decease, which occurred on the 20th. of the 10th. month, 1840.

As he advanced in years, he was preserved from sitting down contented in an outward profession, and became engaged to press forward to experience fellowship and communion with the Father and with the Son, and continuing to grow in grace and in the saving knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the talents with which he was entrusted, became sanctified, and he was qualified to fill with Christian propriety & meekness such stations as were assigned him in the Church. When about thirty years of age he was appointed to the station of an Elder, which office he filled to the satisfaction of Friends. He was an unslumbering watchman on the walls of our Zion, being enabled to discern the approach of the enemy, and faithful in sounding the alarm. In 1813, he was married to his second wife, Sarah Fish, daughter of Reserved and Sarah Fish, of Dartmouth — Rhode Island, with whom he lived in near affection, until her decease, which took place 23rd. of 3rd. month, 1840. He manifested a deep concern for the best welfare of his children, and they were often admonished by him, to choose the good part.

When of ability, he was diligent in the attendance of religious meetings, and encouraged his family in the performance of the same duty. He possessed a sound discriminating mind, had a remarkably clear perception of the right administration of the discipline of the Church, and appeared concerned that all things might be transacted in good order, agreeably to the mind of Truth. Benevolence, sympathy and genuine hospitality were conspicuous traits in his character; the poor were often remembered by him, and their wants relieved. He evidently derived much satisfaction [illegible] obtain his friends, and an esteem [illegible] those who were laborers in the cause of Truth. Much more might with truth be said. Our object is not to eulogize the man, however worthy, but to magnify the great and excellent name of Him, who giveth gifts unto men. He devoted much of his time to reading the Holy Scriptures, and the writings of Friends; and was heard to say that he had derived much benefit therefrom. He was sound in doctrine, and concerned to hold fast without wavering, that faith which was once delivered to the saints, and for which our early friends suffered so deeply. The introduction of unsound principles into our once united Society, occasioned him much painful exercise, especially towards the latter part of his life. He was favored to see clearly that if the advocates of the unsound views which were spread abroad, still continued to give them and their authors support, it would as in former days, in some of the other Yearly Meetings produce a seperation in the Society; if indeed there should be any remaining, who felt bound to the law & the testimony. In the latter part of the 11th. month 1843, our beloved friend took a heavy cold, which settled on his lungs, and produced much coughing; yet his mind was very much staid in the quiet, and he expressed to those about him an entire resignation to the Divine Will.

To one time with earnestness said, "There is nothing but the Truth that will stand, and I have been seeking it from a child;" - and after a short pause, a friend that was present saying to him, "You has' not 'to ask' death', but 'Can' you' attain that which thou hast long been seeking after?" He replied, "I can say as my wife said to me, 'I can look upon death near, without any alarm.'"

In the course of his sickness, many friends called to see him, which gave him great satisfaction. When near his close he could [illegible] but little as he distinctly understood [illegible], having a very sore throat and mouth. He gradually grew weaker until the eve-

evening of 17th. of 12th. month, 1843, when he departed this life in the 67th. year of his age. As he was generally respected and beloved, so his removal from works to rewards was deeply felt by his survivors; but we have consolation in believing that our loss is his eternal gain.

Signed on behalf and by direction of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Dartmouth, 22nd. of 3d. month, 1844.

Thomas K. Wilbur, } Clerks.
Alice Wilbur. }

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## Minute

of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends, concerning Sarah Tucker, deceased.

Our beloved friend, Sarah Tucker, was the daughter of Preserved and Sarah Fish, and was born at Dartmouth, in Rhode Island, the 15th. of 2nd. month, 1770. From the accounts she has left of her early life, it appears that in her young and tender years she was often visited with the inshinings of that Divine Light which is a reprover of all evil thoughts, words, and actions, and which will when followed in faith and singleness of heart, lead its humble and devoted children into the way of truth and righteousness. And although at times she appeared, in some degree to have indulged in the vanities of life; yet, as she arrived at more mature years of understanding, she was mercifully favored to witness an awakening of these things, and to seek for a nearer acquaintance with her Divine Master, having experienced the truth of his saying our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, "Except a man deny himself, and take up his daily cross, he cannot be my disciple." Nevertheless, deep were her baptisms, and various were the conflicts of spirit through which she had to pass, before she could thus give up to follow the leadings of the Spirit of Truth, in the way of its requirings. In the early part of the year 1795, she applied to, and became a member of Westport Monthly Meeting, within the limits of which she then resided, having at that time been convinced of the truth of the principles of Christianity, as held by Friends. About the twenty-sixth year of her age she first appeared in the work of the ministry; at Portsmouth, having in the mean time returned to her native place.

The prospect of this weighty service brought with it fresh conflicts and privations; but by endeavouring to dwell near, and

fet after the Source and Fountain of all good, she was enabled on this, as on other occasions to resign herself into the gaining hand of the Lord, who calleth and qualifieth the members of his militant Church to fill the various stations therein, as seemeth him meet; and without whose call and qualification, vain are the brightest talents, or the most ardent desire to do good and promote the cause of truth & righteousness in the earth. In the year 1813, she was married to our beloved friend, James Tucker, who survived her, nearly four years, and has left his testimony of her worth and Christian example.

Soon after her marriage, she became a member of this meeting, and continued so until her decease. She travelled considerably abroad in the exercise of her ministry, both in this, and some of the other Yearly Meetings, to the satisfaction of Friends where she laboured; as appeared by the returning certificates with which she was furnished by those whom she visited; and was also a number of times engaged in visiting the families of Friends, in her own, and neighboring Monthly Meetings, to their satisfaction. She was sound in doctrine; her ministry was weighty and edifying, waiting for the openings of Divine Truth, zealously engaged to arouse the lukewarm & indifferent to a deeper indwelling, and to an experimental knowledge of the regenerating power of the grace of God, which bringeth salvation, and to enforce the necessity of being born again, not of corruptible, but of the incorruptable Seed and Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

She was deeply concerned for the support of all our Christian testimonies, firmly believing them to be established in the Truth, and which neither time, nor the specious pretences of those who seek for an easier way than through the furnace of trial and affliction, can ever impair or alter. Though often deeply humbled under a sense of her own unworthiness and short comings, yet, at times, she was favored to see, and her faith strengthened in believing, that she had not followed cunningly devised fables, but the living and unchangeable truth; and that although the Lord often sees meet to prove his servants, and permits them to be tried as to an hair's-breadth, yet such trials tend to their greater purification and growth in the truth, and prove their trust and confidence in Him.

Her health, naturally feeble, became, as she advanced in life, much impaired, being often visited with sickness; yet when able, she was diligent in the attendance of our religious meetings, both for worship and discipline, often sitting through them in much bodily

weakness; and though frequently confined to the house or her room for months together, her concern for the welfare of the Church, and her [illegible] for the proper administration of its discipline, was in no degree lessened. On the spring of the year 1810 she was seized with a fever: having for some months before been in feeble health; it soon became manifest that the disease was more than her feeble frame could long endure. Her bodily sufferings though at times great, were borne with patience and resignation; and her mind seemed stayed upon that Almighty Arm, which can alone support in the hour of need. She imparted much tender counsel and advice to her children; and, after taking an affectionate leave of her family, she quietly departed this life, the 23d. of 3d. month, 1810, aged sixty-one, and having been a minister about thirty-seven years.

" And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars, [illegible] "

Signed on behalf, and by direction of the Monthly Meeting aforesaid, held in Dartmouth, 22nd. of 3d. month, 1818.

Thomas K. Wilbur,
Alice Wilbur,
} Clerks.

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island, commencing with Public Meetings for Worship at Newport, on First day the 10th of Sixth Month 1849. and on Second day morning the eleventh of the same for Discipline.

We have received accounts from Rhode Island, Salem, Sandwich and Dover Quarterly Meetings, by which we are informed that they have appointed the following named Friends as their representatives to this meeting Viz.
From Rhode Island — Oliver Chace, John Wilbur, John T. Kenyon, Israel Buffinton, Thomas B. Gould, John Mitchell, Othniel Foster and Harvey Chace; — From Salem Nathan Page, David Buffum, William B. Oliver and George F. Read; — From Sandwich — Pierce Gardner, Francis Taber, Benjamin Tucker, James D. Peckham, Job Eddy, Seth Davis, William Howland, Thomas K. Wilbur and Peleg Mitchell; — From Dover — William Hill, Aaron Varney, Pelatiah Hussey, Joseph Meader and Valentine Meader; whose names being called they were all present except one.

No account has been received at this time from either Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalborough or Fairfield Quarterly Meeting.

We have at this meting the acceptable company of our beloved Friend Joseph Fripp, who produced a minute, which has been read at this time from Hector Monthly Meeting in the State of New York, held 5th Month 9th 1849 — expressive of his being a Minister in unity with them, and leaving him at liberty to pursue his present prospect of religious duty amongst us, as way may open for it.

We have received a minute of the last Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia, directing a Report prepared by this Meeting for Sufferings and

adopted by that Yearly Meeting - in relation to the division which has taken place within the limits of this Yearly meeting to be laid before us; - both of which have been read at this time to our satisfaction; - The minute is directed to be recorded; and the further consideration of the subject is referred to Francis Taber, Prince Gardner, William Hill, Christopher C. Hussey Seth Davis, Amos C. Wilbur, Thomas B. Gould, Peleg Mitchell, William Slade, Israel Buffinton Harvey Chace, Valentine Meader, Timothy Varney, Ethan Foster, Joel Eddy, Nathan Page, William B. Oliver and Pelatiah Hussey, who are requested to report at a future sitting what disposition of the Document it may in their judgment be right for this meeting to make.

"At a Yearly Meeting of Friends, held in Philadelphia, by adjournments from the 16th of the 4th month to the 20th of the same, inclusive, 1849.

The Meeting for Sufferings having, in conformity with the directions of this Meeting, by its minute of last year, entered into an investigation of the facts and causes of the division which has taken place in New England Yearly Meeting, and prepared a Report thereon, it was now produced and read; and after a time of discussion and solid deliberation, it was concluded that it would be best to adopt it; and with a salutation of unfeigned regard, and the expression of sincere desire that under the heavenly influences of Divine Love, all parties may be favored to be brought into true fellowship on the only sure foundation, so that we may be enabled to unite as brethren in the promotion of the blessed cause for which the great Head of the Church raised us up as a people, it was concluded to forward to each body a copy of the document, and leave it with them for their solid consideration.

Extracted from the minutes
[and signed by] William Evans. Clerk
to the meeting this year."

The representatives are requested to confer together and propose to the next sitting the names of Friends to serve this meeting as Clerk and assistant clerk the ensuing year.

cAdjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

cAfternoon - met pursuant to adjournment.

Seth Davis reported on behalf of the representatives that they had met and concluded to propose Thomas B. Gould for Clerk and Peleg cMitchell for cAssistant Clerk, and their names having been separately con=sidered, the proposition was united with and they are respectively appointed to those services for the ensuing year.

The records of our last Yearly Meeting were then read.

We are informed that Rhode Island, Salem, Sandwich and Dover Quarterly Meetings have paid their respective proportions of Stock to our Treasurer: and William Slade, Miller Chase, William B. Olivier David Buffum, Francis Taber Junr, Benjamin Gardner William Hill and Joseph Threader are appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account - consider of a sum suitable to be raised for the use of this meeting the ensuing year, and to propose a Treasurer.

The accounts from Rhode Island, Salem, and Dover Quarterly Meetings respectively state, that the Extracts from our minutes which were directed to be forwarded last year were duly received and recorded: and we have similar information from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting - verbally communicated by one of its representatives. It also appears that no change has occurred during the past year with regard to the times or plans of holding the above named Quart=erly Meetings.

We are informed by Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting that they have united with South Kingston Monthly Meeting in approving the Gift and public appearance in the Ministry of Phebe Foster; by Salem that they have united with Salem Monthly Meeting in the appointment of George F. Read to the Station of an Elder; By Sandwich - that they have united with Nantucket Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Mary Barnard; and with New Bedford Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Job Eddy to the same Station; - and by Dover Quarterly Meeting - that in the eighth month last they united with Berwick Monthly Meeting in approving the Gift and public appearance in the Ministry of Elizabeth Hill; and in the first

Month following they united with the same Monthly Meeting in approving the public ministry of Timothy Varney.

Adjourned to the 10th hour to morrow morning.

Third day morning – the 12th of the month. Friends again assembled near the 10th hour. – The names of the representatives being called they were all present except the friend whose absence was noticed yesterday morning for which a satisfactory reason was now rendered.

Then proceeded to read the Queries with the answers thereto received from the several Quarterly Meetings. A solemn covering prevailed over us during the consideration of the State of Society as thereby presented and especially at the conclusion – under which a lively exercise was felt and expressed for the preservation & advancement of our Members in the Truth. –

The following Summary of the answers to the Queries was directed to be recorded. Viz

Answer 1st. It appears from the accounts received that all our meetings for religious worship and discipline have been attended and generally by nearly all our members. Yet deficiencies in the attendance of mid-week meetings, and those for discipline are reported on the part of some, in three of the Quarterly Meetings. Friends are generally careful to observe the hour. Each of the accounts notices a a few instances of sleeping, and two of them inform that some care has been taken.

Ans 2nd. Love and unity appear to be in a good degree maintained and detraction guarded against. Three of the Quarterly Meetings report that no differences have arisen therein – while another notices some exceptions with regard to one monthly meeting – the account from which states that when differences have arisen care has been taken to end them. –

Ans 3d. Most Friends appear to be concerned to bring up those under their care in plainness & guard and to restrain them from reading pernicious books & from corrupt conversation; as well as to be examplary therein themselves. The Holy Scriptures appear to be frequently read, in the families of Friends.

Ans 4th. Friends appear to be careful to confine the use of Spirituous liquors to medicinal purposes, and to avoid the unnecessary frequenting of taverns. One account reports that other places of public resort are not so carefully guarded against by some as would be best. Moderation and temperance appears to be observed on the occasions referred to in accordance with the Query

Ans 5th. The circumstances of the poor appear to be attended to and their necessities relieved: their children partake of learning— none are reported as being placed out from among friends.

Ans 6th. It appears that friends are mostly careful in regard to the subject of this query; although among the young and unmarried a few exceptions are noticed in one of the accounts;- and in another - one or two instances of marrying out of the order of our Society are reported: One instance of keeping company on account of marriage is noticed in which care has been taken.

Ans 7th. Friends appear to be generally careful to maintain our testimonies in regard to the several subjects embraced in this Query. Two accounts report a few instances of young people attending meetings where Priests' wages are paid; in both of which it is stated that care has been taken.

Ans 8th. A care appears to rest on the minds of Friends to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts: and generally to comply with the requisitions of the Discipline in regard to the remaining parts of this Query; yet one account expresses a fear that more care is needed.

Ans 9th. It appears that Friends are careful as to recording. Two accounts state that a few instances of removal have occurred, without certificates; some of which are under notice.

Ans 10th. A good degree of care appears to be felt to deal with offenders in the spirit and manner required by the discipline. Yet some delay in timely dealing is noticed owing to the peculiar circumstances in which Friends have been placed. Endeavours appear to be used to place judgment as queried after.-

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon: The Meeting gathered according to adjournment.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been laid upon the table were read at this time; and the proceedings of that Body being united with, Prince Gardner, William Hill, Benjamin Tucker, Palmer Chace, Seth Davis, John T. Kenyon, Peleg Mitchell, Stephen Swift, Job Eddy, Philip Tripp, David Buffum and Ethan Foster were appointed to consider of and produce at a future sitting - a list of the names of Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

The committee appointed at a previous sitting to examine and settle the Treasurers Accounts, and for other purposes produced a report which has been read and accepted at this time: and our Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward their respective proportions of Four Hundred Dollars, the sum proposed to be raised the present year, to Israel Buffinton, who, in accordance with a proposition contained in the following Report, is appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the ensuing year, or until another appointment. Viz.

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting.

The Committee appointed to audit and settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes. Report, that they have examined and settled the Treasurers account and find a Ballance in his hands of One Hundred and Thirty two dollars 41/100 and would propose the sum of Four Hundred Dollars to be raised to defray the expenses of the Yearly Meeting, the ensuing year. They would likewise propose Israel Buffinton for Treasurer. (signed) William Slade. on Newport 6th mo. 12th 1849. behalf of the committee.

Adjourned to the Tenth hour tomorrow morning.

Fourth day morning - the 13th of the month - met pursuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives being called they were all present except one.

It having appeared by the records of the Meeting for Sufferings that they had been engaged in the consideration of "an Appeal" for the Ancient Doctrines of our Religious Society, issued by our Friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and had recorded their full unity therewith, and recommended it to the serious perusal of all our members; and believing it to have originated in a right exercise on the part of our dear Friends of that yearly Meeting for the faithful maintenance of our precious Principles and Doctrines in their Ancient purity & fullness And the Document having been laid before this Meeting at the present sitting; it was apprehended that usefulness might result from its being read before our yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends collectively assembled. The subject was accordingly entered upon, and the reading proceeded in as far as the 34th page inclusive. When the meeting Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon: -

Afternoon. Friends again met according to adjournment.

The reading of the "Appeal for the Ancient Doctrines of the Religious Society of Friends," commenced at our morning sitting was resumed, and deliberately continued until it was accomplished.

During the consideration of this subject our minds have been afresh brought into a lively concern for the full acknowledgment and faithful support of all those christ-ian Principles and Doctrines which our worthy prede-cessors were, in a remarkable manner raised up to revive and promulgate to the world, believing that no less responsibility rests upon us, to whom they have been transmitted, than upon those who, under great suf-ferings, were enabled to maintain them inviolate, through the efficacy of that Divine Light and Power, which remains to be the same foundation on which they stand, and by which they continue to be ~~revealed~~ immediately revealed to the humble dependant soul.

The truth of these doctrines and testimonies has been abundantly confirmed by a "cloud of Witnesses," who have livingly experienced their Heavenly power and efficacy, in giving them the victory over the world and enabling them to hold out unto the end, and to obtain the crown of life. We are renewedly confirmed in the belief, that a succession of such as these has been mercifully continued through all the trials and conflicts which have been permitted to assail them down to our own times. And under a sense of the peculiar trials of the present day-which have furnished the occasion for this earnest and affectionate "Appeal" - our minds have been brought into near unity with our Friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meet-ing in the fellowship of suffering, and it has been cause of encouragement to us, that they have been thus strength-ened to support the standard of Truth in this day of doubtful disputation and philosophical Criticism upon upon the momentous and mysterious subjects of Faith & Doctrine.

And although, in consequence of the manifestation of a spirit of unbelief in some of these Doctrines which have ever been considered of fundamental importance with all consistent members of our Religious Society, and of the ex-tensive circulation of numerous objectionable publications in relation thereto, written by the more prominent of the two Authors alluded to in the "Appeal", this Meeting was engaged to issue, as early as the year 1845, a public Dec-laration and Testimony" against the unsound Doctrines which had been introduced and supported by some bearing our name, and to contrast them with the Established Doctrines of Friends: yet inasmuch as the ground of our concern remains unchanged, and, so far as relates to a large portion of our members, the cause of exercise is not removed, abundant and sorrowful evidence of a defection

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in principles continuing to be manifested by many under the name of Friends:- After a time of solid deliberation both in this and the womens meeting, and a very general expression of unity on the part of those assembled in both, it was concluded, without a dissenting voice, to adopt the "Appeal," and thus again to manifest our continued attachment to First Principles, and undeviating conviction of the preciousness of that Faith which was once delivered to the Saints, as well as our entire disunity with every attempt to modify the one or subvert the other.

The subject of our correspondence with other Yearly Meetings coming again before us, it was referred to the committee appointed at our first sitting on second day morning.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour to morrow afternoon.

Fifth day afternoon - the 14th of the month. According to adjournment, Friends again assembled.

The names of the representatives being called they were present as heretofore, with one exception, for which a satisfactory reason was rendered.

The joint committee of men and women Friends appointed last year on account of the situation of Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalborough, and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings produced the following Report which has been read and accepted, both by this and the womens Meeting, and the subject is accordingly referred for further consideration to our next Yearly Meeting. Viz.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

The joint committee of men and women Friends, who were appointed last year to extend such labour as way might appear to open for in the Truth, to the Quarterly Meetings of Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalborough and Fairfield; Report, that although the subject has claimed their serious consideration from time to time, yet no way has appeared to open for any extension of labour; and the committee are united in recommending that the whole subject be referred on the minutes, for the consideration of the meeting next year.

(Signed) On behalf of the committee

Newport 6th mo. 13th 1849. Prince Gardner
Sylvia R. Wilbur.

The Committee continued last year in charge of our Boarding School at Providence Reported as follows viz

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The committee appointed last year to have charge of our Boarding School at Providence, have prepared the following Report viz. The institution and its funds being in possession of those who have separated themselves from

our Society, way has not opened for us to exercise any con-
-trol over either for the past year.

(signed) Aaron Varney.
Newport 6th Mo 13th 1849. Mary Gardner. On
behalf of the committee.

And notwithstand the unfavourable circumstances in which the School remains as regards their obtaining control over its concerns, it appears to be the prevailing sense and judgment of this meeting, to continue the same committee (in conjunction with a similar committee of the womens Meeting should they appoint one) with the exception of our late beloved Friends Hezekiah Barnard and Jonathan Nichols deceased, since last year; and Prince Gardner, George F. Read, Francis Taber Junr, Thomas Foster, Seth Davis, William Hill James Austin, Charles Perry, William B. Clives, Israel Buffinton, David Buffum, Thomas Willbur, Palmer Chace George H. Eddy, Harvey Chace, Pelatiah Hussey, Peleg Mitchell, Aaron Varney and John T. Kinyon are accord-
=ingly appointed to the service and desired to pay due attention thereto on behalf of this meeting and to report next year.

The A Report has been brought into this meeting and read at this time from the committee continued last year to effect a transfer of our School Fund from the former to the present Treasurer, which was accepted and is as follows viz.

To the yearly Meeting now sitting.

The committee charged with attention to the service of effecting a transfer of the School Fund from the for-
=mer to the present Treasurer, have again to Report their inability to accomplish the object for which they originally were appointed, and have been from time to time continued by the yearly Meeting; and that for reasons similar to those already stated in our previous Reports the Fund still remains in the hands, and under the exclusive controll of the Separatists.

(signed) William Hill. On
Newport 6th Mo 13th 1849. behalf of the committee.

The committee now under appointment is continued, with the addition of our friend Israel Buffinton, and appointed to have charge of this subject, as by minute of last year, and they are also requested to report to this meeting next year. Viz William Hill, Charles Perry, George F. Read, Benjamin Tucker, and Israel Buffinton.

The committee appointed at a former sitting to propose the names of Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings reported the following viz. Francis Taber, John Willbur Seth Davis, Jos Eddy, Henry Gould, Prince Gardner Oliver Chace, Nathan Page, John Mitchell, Thomas Willbur,

Thomas B. Gould, Joseph Meader, William Hill, Benjamin Tucker, Harvey Chace, Ethniel Foster, Palmer Chace, Nathan Buffinton, Peleg Mitchell, Benjamin Gardner, William Slade, George M. Eddy, George C. Kenyon, George F. Read John T. Kenyon, William B. Oliver, Thomas K. Wilbur, Charles Perry, Ethan Foster, Amos C. Wilbur, James Austin, Israel Buffinton, Thomas Foster, Timothy Varney Samuel B. Chace, James D. Peckham, Francis Taber Junr, Pelatiah Hussey, Valentine Meader, Samuel Thyfield, Christopher C. Hussey and Thomas P. Nichols which were approved by this meting; and the friends are accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, or until another appointment.

Our friend Ebenezer Austin who was appointed last year to inform Noah Winslow of the conclusion of this meeting in relation to his appeal, reported at this time, that he had attended to the service. —

Adjourned to the 9th hour to morow morning.

Sixth day morning - the 15th of the month. The meeting again assembled pursuant to adjournment & the names of the representatives being called, they were all present as at our first sitting. —

The committee to whom was referred, for further consideration, the Document prepared by the Meeting for Sufferings of Philadelphia yearly Meeting, in relation to the Facts and Causes of the Division which has taken place within our limits, and which was adopted by a minute of that Yearly Meeting, and directed to be laid before us for our solid consideration: - both of which were received and read at our first sitting, reported at this time. And upon solid deliberation it appears to us that our Friends of that Yearly Meeting have been enabled to enter into an impartial examination of the momentous subject, to obtain a correct understanding of the transactions narrated, and favored to come to a right conclusion respecting the important Principles which are involved therein. —

The subject having been thus weightily revived and left with us for our serious consideration; we have been exercised into a careful re-examination of the part which we have felt called upon to act; - and while we are sensible of much weakness, we can with reverence and thankfulness acknowledge the continued evidence of Divine regard. And, as we humbly trust, under the cementing influence of Heavenly Love, our minds have been brought into near unity with the concern expressed by our dear Friends of Philadelphia yearly meeting; - "That all those who have occasioned uneasiness, or been instrumental in bringing our Religious Society into the dangers & difficulties in which it has been mournfully involved, by the transactions alluded to in their Report, as having

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"gone to condemn many who have been standing for the Ancient Faith of Friends," may be brought to see their error, and to a right sense of the support which we continue to believe has been and still is given to unsound Doctrines and wrong practices, in violation of the Discipline - to the subversion of the peace & order of our Religious Society, and of the acknowledged rights of its members. And as in the course of the re-examination which we have been led into respecting the manner of our proceeding, we have not seen cause either to forsake the ground, or to retrace the steps which we have taken; neither have we been able to see in what other way we could have sustained the yearly Meeting in conformity with the Discipline, and upon its original foundation. And we believe it to be right for us, and our duty at this time, again to express the earnest and sincere desire which we continue deeply to feel, that all who have erred from the Faith, and given their support to the unsound Doctrines which we have been engaged to testify against, or who have been concerned in the oppressive measures which resulted in their separation from us, may be so humbled under the Divine Hand, as to experience, individually, unfeigned repentance unto a condemnation of their errors, and a full acknowledgment of the Truth; and so come to witness an establishment upon the sure Foundation, and a right preparation of heart to unite with us in religious fellowship & communion.

Having also been engaged at this time in the consideration of "an Appeal" for the Ancient Doctrines of our Religious Society, issued by the same yearly Meeting in the year 1847, which was unanimously approved and adopted by this Meeting; believing it to have had its origin in the Truth, and under a similar concern for the faithful maintenance of our Principles, to that which has repeatedly led us both as individuals and as a Body, to bear testimony against the unsound sentiments & Doctrines promulgated by one of the Authors alluded to in the Appeal; and our Meeting for Sufferings having heretofore recommended it to the serious perusal of all our members, we unite therewith; and we especially recommend it to the careful perusal of all who have been drawn aside by the dissemination of those views; earnestly desiring that the forcible manner in which they have been fully refuted, may have the effect to restore such to that precious unity which once characterized us, and that they may be prepared, as the heart of one man, for a full acknowledgment and faithful support of the Principles set forth in that "Appeal"; firmly believing them to be in strict accordance with "the Truth as it is in Jesus, and as it has always been held by our Religious Society.

And it is the conclusion of this meeting to refer the Doc=
=ument, with the minute received from Philadelphia
yearly Meeting, to the Meeting for Sufferings; to be
published for the information of our members, at such
time and in such manner as best Wisdom may direct,
and they are authorized to append thereto a copy of this
minute.

The Clerk of this meeting is directed to forward
a copy of this minute to the next yearly Meeting
of Friends to be held in Philadelphia.

The Clerk is [also] authorized to transcribe the Doc=
=ment received from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
and to forward the transcript with a copy of the fore=
=going minute to the next yearly Meeting of Friends
in Ohio, to be held at Mount Pleasant.

Essays of Epistles to the next yearly Meetings of
Friends in Philadelphia and Ohio, having been produced
by the committee to whom that subject was referred
for consideration, were read at this time and being
approved are directed to be respectively signed by the
clerk and forwarded.

The company and religious services of our be=
=loved friend Joseph Tripp, during his attendance
of this meeting have been truly acceptable and
encouraging to us.

The clerk is authorized to make the necessary
extracts from the minutes of this meeting not already
provided for and to sign them on its behalf. -

Having been favored to transact the weighty
concerns which have come before us in harmony
and to bring them, through a degree of Holy Help to
a satisfactory result - we conclude - purposing to
meet again on this Island in the Sixth month next
if the Lord permit.

Thomas B. Gould. Clerk
to the Meeting this year.

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island, commencing with Public Meetings for Worship on First day the 16th of the Sixth 1850; and on Second day morning the 17th of the same for Discipline.

Accounts are received from Rhode Island, Salem Sandwich and Dover Quarterly Meetings, by which it appears that the following named Friends have been appointed to attend this meeting as their Representatives. Viz. From Rhode Island — John Wilbur, Oliver Chace, John Mitchell, Othniel Foster, Thomas B. Gould, Thomas Wilbur, Harvey Chace, John T. Kinyon, Palmer Chace and Charles Perry.
From Salem — David Buffum, George F. Read, William B. Oliver and Nathan Page.
From Sandwich — Prince Gardner, Job Eddy, Peleg Mitchell, Thomas K. Wilbur, Benjamin Tucker, William Howland, Francis Taber & Francis Taber Junr
From Dover — William Hill, Timothy Varney, Joseph Meader, Pelatiah Hussey, Aaron Varney and Valentine Meader; — whose names being called they were present, except Three, for the absence of one of whom a satisfactory reason was rendered. —

We have not received any report at this time from Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalborough or Fairfield Quarterly Meetings.

Three of the first named Quarterly Meetings acknowledge the reception of the Extracts from the minutes of our last Yearly Meeting; and they all inform that their several proportions of this Meetings Stock have been respectively directed to be paid to our Treasurer. Dover Quarterly Meeting adds the the information that it has united with Berwick Monthly Meeting in the appointment of William Hill to the Station of an Elder; and also that it has been regularly held, during the past year at North Berwick at the usual times. —

The situation of Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalborough and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings having been specially referred on the minutes of our last Yearly Meeting for consideration this year and our minds having also been renewedly brought into much exercise under a sense of their continued omission to render any account of their state to this meeting; — the subject was now feelingly adverted to, and after some time spent thereon, it resulted in the conclusion to refer

the whole subject to the serious consideration of a committee both of this and the womens meeting — should they appoint one — and they are requested if way should open for it, to report their judgment in the case to a future sitting: whereupon the following named Friends were appointed on the part of this meeting; viz, Job Eddy, Francis Taber, John Wilbur, Prince Gardner, Thomas B. Gould, Ebenezer Austin, Nathan Page, George F. Read, Thomas K. Wilbur, William Hill, Ethan Foster, Israel Bufjinton, William Slade, Henry Gould, Peleg Mitchell Othniel Foster, Aaron Varney and Thomas Wilbur. —

We appoint Charles Perry, George C. Kenyon David Buffum, William B. Oliver, Benjamin Tucker Francis Taber Junr, Pelatiah Hussey and William Hill to examine and settle the Treasurers account, consider of the sum needful to be raised for the use of this meeting the ensuing year; and they are also requested to propose a Treasurer to a future sitting of this meeting.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, near the 4th hour, the meeting gathered. —

Prince Gardner, on behalf of the representatives reported that most of them had been together and were united in proposing Thomas B. Gould for Clerk, and Peleg Mitchell for Assistant clerk of this meeting — whose names being seperately considered were united with, and they were accordingly appointed for the ensuing year.

The meeting entered upon the consideration of the state of Society by reading the Queries, with the answers received from the several Quarterly Meetings which have duly reported their state to this meeting and while we have had cause to mourn over the acknowledgement of various deficiencies, yet there appears to be in the main a good degree of concern manifested for the support of our christian principles and Testitionies.

The following Summary of the answers to the Queries was directed to be recorded. Viz.

Summary Ans 1st. The accounts state, that all our meetings for religious worship and discipline have been attended — those on First days and for discipline, generally by nearly all our members who are in a capacity to attend — but more neglect is

apparent in the attendance of those held in the middle of the week and some for discipline. The hour is nearly observed. A few instances of sleeping are reported — of other unbecoming clear. Some care is reported to have been taken in regard to these deficiencies. —

Ans 2nd. — It appears that Love and Unity are maintained, and detraction guarded against, and that when any differencies have arisen care has been taken to end them. —

Ans 3d. — Most Friends appear to be careful to bring up those under their direction in plainness as queried and to restrain them from pernicious reading, and the corrupt conversation of the world — These appear to be good examples therein themselves — While some do not appear to be sufficiently concerned in regard to these important duties. The Holy Scriptures appear to be frequently read in most Friends families. —

Ans 4th. — It appears that Friends are careful to avoid the use of Spirituous liquors except for medicine, the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort; and that they are also careful to observe moderation and temperance on the occasions referred to. —

Ans 5th. The circumstances of the poor are attended to, and their necessities relieved — their children partake of learning to fit them for business. Two instances of children being placed out from among friends are reported in one Quarterly Meeting. —

Ans 6th. — It appears that Friends are mostly careful that all proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to our discipline. Several instances of marrying out of the order of Society are reported which are under care. —

Ans 7th. — Our testimony against the payment of Priests' wages appears to be faithfully maintained except a few instances of attending meetings where there is a hired ministry — on which account some care appears to have been taken.

Ans 8th. — It appears that Friends are generally careful as it regards the several parts of this Query.

Ans 9th — Marriage certificates are duly recorded, births and deaths mostly. A few instances of removals without certificate are reported — some of which are under care. —

Ans 10th. — A good degree of care appears to rest on the minds of Friends generally to deal with offenders in the spirit and manner implied by the Query, and to place judgment in the authority of Truth according to our Discipline; yet in some cases care has not been extended so seasonably as would have been best.

Adjourned to the Tenth hour to morrow morning.

Third day morning the 18th of the month. met pursuant to adjournment. —

The names of the representatives being called, they were present and answered thereto, as at our sitting yesterday morning, with the addition of one Friend whose absence at that time was not accounted for.

The committee appointed yesterday morning to examine and settle the Treasurers account and to nominate a Treasurer produced the following report which was read and accepted — Israel Buffinton was accordingly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the year ensuing or until another appointment, and the several Quarterly meetings are requested to forward to him their respective proportions of Three Hundred Dollars the sum agreed to be raised for the use of this meeting the present year and the clerk is directed to furnish them with a copy of this minute. —

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

The Committee appointed to settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes — Report, That we have attended thereto and find the account correct and a ballance of One Hundred & eleven dollars and fifty nine cents, now in the Treasurers hands. We propose that Three hundred dollars be raised for the use of the Yearly Meeting the ensuing year; and for Treasurer Israel Buffinton.

Newport 6th mo 18th 1850 (signed) Charles Perry
On behalf of the committee.

Our Boarding School Committee produced the following report — which being read was accepted; and although there does not appear to be much encouragement as regards their effecting the purposes for which they were appointed, yet it was concluded to continue the same committee another year, and they were accordingly continued and appointed to extend such care over the concerns of the Institution as way may open for — they are also requested to report to our next Yearly meeting. Viz Prince Gardner, George F. Read, Francis

Jabez Jenk, Thomas Foster, Seth Davis, William Hill
James Austin, Charles Perry, William B. Olives, Israel
Buffinton, David Buffum, Thomas Wilbur, Palmer
Chace, George M. Eddy, Harvey Chace, Pelatiah Hus-
-sey, Aaron Varney, Peleg Mitchell & John T. Kenyon.

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting;

The committee appointed at our last yearly Meeting to have charge of the Boarding School at Providence Report, that as the funds of the Institution and the control of the School continue to be in the hands of those who have seperated themselves from Friends and all access to the property having been with-held from us - no opportunity has presented to exercise any control over the Institution - which we submit to the meeting.

(signed) On behalf of the Committee
Newport 6th mo 18th 1850. Prince Gardner
Asenath Buffinton.

The committee charged with the service of transferring our School Fund from the former Treasurer to our Friend Harvey Chace the present Treasurer, produced a report which has been read:- and while it does not appear therefrom that they have been able to effect the transfer in accordance with the desire of this meeting yet the report was accepted and the committee is continued and requested to pay due attention to the service and to report what advancement they may be able to make to our next yearly meeting. Viz William Hill, Charles Perry, George F. Read Benjamin Tucker and Israel Buffinton.

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting

The committee appointed to effect a transfer of the School Fund from the former to the present Treasurer thereof, report, That since the decease of the former Treasurer, who was unwillingly applied to for it, we understand the fund has been transferred to another person who is connected with those who have gone out from amongst us; and although the committee have repeatedly endeavoured to obtain an interview with him they have not yet succeeded in doing so.

Newport 6th mo: 18th 1850. (signed) On behalf of the committee William Hill.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been produced were read at this time, and being approved John Wilbur, Henry Gould, Prince Gardner, Nathan Page, Francis Jaber, Job Eddy, Peleg Mitchell, Israel

Buffinton, John T. Kenyon, Francis Taber Junr, William Hill and Amos C. Wilbur, were appointed to prepare and lay before this meeting at a future sitting, a list of the names of suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to the Fifth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon — Friends again met — and after attending to some subjects which came before them, and which did not appear necessary to be entered on our Records the meeting adjourned to the Third hour tomorrow afternoon.

Fourth day afternoon — the 19th of the month. According to adjournment the meeting again assembled. The names of the representatives being called they were present as at our sittings yesterday. —

The committee appointed at a previous sitting to bring in a list of the names of Friends suitable to compose a Meeting for Sufferings, reported the following viz: Francis Taber, Prince Gardner, George F. Read, William Hill, Francis Taber Junr, Thomas B. Gould John Wilbur, Israel Buffinton, Nathan Page, Samuel B. Chace, Charles Perry, Peleg Mitchell, Thomas K. Wilbur, Palmer Chace, Benjamin Gardner, Job Eddy, John T. Kenyon, Harvey Chace, Thomas Wilbur, Othniel Foster, Aaron Varney, Benjamin Tucker, William B. Oliver, Pelatiah Hussey, Ethan Foster, William Slade, Amos C. Wilbur, Nathan Buffinton and George M. Eddy; which being approved, the Friends above named were appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing or until another appointment shall be entered into by the Yearly Meeting.

Having at our first sitting had under ~~under~~ weighty deliberation, the continued omission of several of our Quarterly Meetings to report their state to this meeting; the committee to whom that subject was referred now produced the following Report, which has been read, deliberately considered and accepted; and while our minds have been afresh introduced into a feeling sense of the importance of the subject, and also into near sympathy with Friends residing within the limits of those Quarterly Meetings, who have retained their attachment to the good order of Society and endeavoured to support our ancient Principles and Testimonies; yet as the way has not appeared to open for us to take any further action at this time, it appears to be the prevailing sense and judgment both of this and the womens meeting, again to refer the subject for the serious consideration of our next Yearly Meeting. —

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting.

The committee to whom was referred for consideration the present standing of Falmouth, Smithfield, Salisbury & Fairfield Quarterly Meetings, having met together for that purpose; were introduced into deep feeling and exercise in view of view of the important subject for which they had convened, and while thus engaged, with earnest desires for right direction; they were very nearly united in judgment, that the present is not the right time to take further action in the case; but the belief was expressed, that as Friends continue to dwell under the weight of the concern, that way will be made at some future time to move forward therein, and to bring the subject to a satisfactory conclusion: which is submitted to the Yearly Meeting.

(Signed) On behalf of the committee
Peleg Mitchell.
Newport 19th of 6th month 1850. Mary Macy.

Under a sense of much weakness and of many discouragements and trials we have been mercifully favoured to transact the business which has come before us in harmony — and with feelings of reverent thankfulness to our Holy Helper, we conclude — purposing to meet again on this Island in the Sixth Month next if consistent with the Divine Will.

Thomas B. Gould. Clerk, to the sitting this year.

1851
6mo

A Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island commencing with publick meetings for worship on First day the 15th of 6mo 1851, and on second day morning the 16th of the same for discipline.

By the accounts received from Rhode Island, Salem, Sandwich & Dover Quarterly Meetings we are informed that they have respectively appointed the following named Friends to attend this meeting as their representatives, Viz from Rhode Island Oliver Chase, John Wilbur, John Mitchell, Harvey Chase, Palmer Chase, Ethniel Foster, Thomas B Gould, & John J Kenyon; From Salem William B Oliver, Nathan Page, David Buffum 3d George J Reed; From Sandwich Francis Taber, 3d Leo Mitchell, Thomas R Wilbur, Stephen Swift, Benjamin James Austin, Francis Taber Jr, Charles W Rowland; From Dover William Hill, Timothy Varney, Isaac Varney, Elatiah Hussey, ~~Isaac Varney~~ Levi Gove, & Aaron Varney, whose names being called, they were all present except two, for ~~absence~~ satisfactory reasons were rendered.

No account has been received at this time from Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalborough or Hopkinton Quarterly Meetings. —— Rhode Island Salem, Sandwich & Dover Quarterly Meetings, acknowledge the reception of the extracts from the minutes of our last Yearly Meeting, and also inform, that they directed their respective proportions of stock to be paid to our Treasurer.

The affecting subject of the situation of Falmouth Smithfield, Vassalborough & Hopkinton Quarterly Meetings coming before us at this time by reference from our last Yearly Meeting, and being also revived, by their having again omitted, so far as appears, to render any account of their State to this meeting — After a time of serious consideration, it was concluded to appoint Job Eddy Francis Taber, Peleg Mitchell, William Hill Ebenezer Austin Nathan Page, Benjamin Gardner, John Wilbur Israel Bishopp, Timothy Varney, Thomas B Gould, Christopher G Hussey, Harvey Chase, Charles Perry & Amos Wilbur to unite with such Friends as may be appointed by the womens meeting in the further consideration of the important subject;

and they are requested to report their judgment in the case & at a future sitting.

We appoint Ethan Foster & Palmer Chase of Rhode Island, George F Read & William B Cline of Salem, Benjamin Tucker & Benjamin Gardner of Sandwich & William Hill & Belatiah Russell of Dover Quarterly Meetings. To examine and settle the Treasurers account, consider of a sum suitable to be raised for the use of this meeting the ensuing year, and to nominate a Treasurer.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon near the fourth hour the meeting gathered.

Nathan Page on behalf of the representatives, reported that most of them had been together, and were united in proposing Silas Mitchell for Clerk and Charles Perry for assistant Clerk, whose names having been separately considered, the nominations were respectively approved, and the friends were accordingly appointed for the ensueing year.

Palmer Chase & Eli Eddy are appointed to transfer the books and papers in the possession of our friend Thomas B Gould the former Clerk of this meeting, to the friend now under appointment.

A proposition having come before us from the Quarterly Meetings of Salem & Dover, to unite those meetings, so as to constitute one meeting, under the name of Salem and Dover Quarterly Meeting of Friends. Benjamin Gardner, John Hilton, Benjamin Tucker Francis Baker Jr, Moses Mitchell, Nathan Burdick, Isaac Buffington, Thomas Foster & Thomas B Gould are appointed a Committee to unite with a Committee from the Womens meeting, should they appoint one — To take the subject into consideration, as proposed in the accounts from those meetings, and report their judgment to a future sitting.

The meeting entered upon the consideration of the State of Society, by the reading of the queries, with the answers received from the several Quarterly Meetings, which have reported their State at this time. And being introduced into deep ~~exercise~~ exercise and Solicitude an account of the deficiencies, therein brought to view, much Salutary Counsel was administered, and Friends were encouraged to labour in love and in meekness, in their several allotments, for their removal.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning

3d day morning the 17th Friends again assembled

The names of the representative being called & having answered thereto, they were present, as at our Sitting yesterday morning.

The following Summary of the answers to the Queries has been read and is directed to be recorded

Summary Answer 1st

All our meetings for religious worship & discipline have been attended except one for worship, and generally by nearly all our members, who are in a capacity to attend — yet those held in the middle of the week, are not so fully attended by some as would be best. The hour is generally observed — a few instances of slipping are noticed in all of the accounts Two of which state that same care has been extended in the above deficiencies.

Answer 2d Love and unity appear to be generally maintained; detraction is guarded against; and although some exceptions are noticed with regard to love and unity; yet no differences are reported, and some care appears to have been taken.

Answer 3d A good degree of care appears to be exercised by Friends generally to bring up those under their direction in plainness as practiced, and to restrain them from reading pernicious books, and from corrupt Conversation; they are mostly exemplary therein themselves; and the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their families.

Answer 4th Friends with an exception noticed in one of the accounts, are careful to confine the use of Spirituous liquors to medicinal purposes, and to avoid the unnecessary frequenting of taverns, a few instances of attending places of public resort unnecessarily are also reported.

Answer 5th The circumstances of the poor & such as appear likely to need assistance, appear to be duly instructed and their necessities relieved; their children taken notice of, encouraging to get them for business: none are reported as neglected and from among friends

Answer 6th Parents & heads of families, with the young and unmarried appear to be concerned that all proceedings with respect to marriage, are conformable to the discipline; yet several instances of keeping company, with intention of marriage, and of the order of society, are reported

Answer 7th Friends are generally careful to maintain a faithful testimony against the payment of Priests wages bearing arms, training and other military matters they also appear to be careful as regards subjects embraced in the latter part of the query; and a few instances of attendance on a hireling ministry ~~are~~ have arisen.

Answer 8th Friends are generally careful to inspect their affairs, and settle their accounts, also to be punctual to their promises & just in the payment of their debts, and to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

Answer 9th Marriage certificates are duly recorded births deaths & burials mostly. three cases of removal without certificate are reported.

Answer 10th Friends are concerned to deal with offenders in the Spirit of meekness & wisdom without partiality or unnecessary delay; and endeavours have been used to place judgment in the authority of Truth according to the discipline, although the trying circumstances, in which Friends continue to be placed, appear to have obstructed, timely dealing with some offenders. ———

The committee appointed yesterday morning to examine & settle the Treasurers accounts and to nominate a Treasurer, have produced the following ripart.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

We the committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurer's account— Report, that we have attended to that service, and find in his hands a balance of one hundred and thirty five dollars and forty one cents— We recommend to raise the sum of three hundred dollars, for the use of the meeting the ensueing year; and propose Israel Buffington for Treasurer On behalf of the committee

Newport 6th mo 17 1851 Ethan Foster

1851
6mo

which is satisfactory, and Israel Buffington is accordingly appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year, and our Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward to him their respective proportions of three hundred dollars, the sum named in the report, and the Clerk is directed to furnish them with a copy of this minute.

The minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings, having been laid before us & read at this time, have approved, and William Hill, Benjamin Carter, Thomas B Gould, Asa Foster, Benjamin Gardner, Stephen Swift, Cal Eddy, Palmer Chase, Harvey Chase, Lame Austin, Nathan Buffington, Israel Buffington & David Buffum are appointed to consider of & lay before this meeting at a future sitting, a list of the names of suitable Friends to Compose a meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

The Committee appointed yesterday afternoon to transfer the books & papers belonging to this meeting, in the possession of the late Clerk to the present one, report that they have attended to their appointment & that they are so transfered.

Adjourned to the 5th hour this afternoon

Afternoon, met pursuant to adjournment

The Committee heretofore appointed to effect a transfer of the School fund, from the former to the present Treasurer, have produced the following report

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed to effect a transfer of the School fund, from the person in whose possession it now is, to the present Treasurer thereof. Report, that they have given some further attention to the subject, but have not been able hitherto, to make any progress therein

On behalf of the committee

Newport 6mo 17 1851 William Hill

And although no progress appears to have been made towards effecting the object desired, yet the committee are continued to give such attention to the subject, as the case may seem to require and report to this meeting next year.

The committee appointed yesterday morning to take into consideration, the subject of the present situation of Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalboro & Plainfield Quarterly Meetings, as referred to this

meeting from the minutes of last year, Have included the following report.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The committee appointed to take into consideration the continued affecting situation of Falmouth, Smithfield, Wassahamaugh, and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings. Report that they have had that subject under their serious deliberation, and that way has not appeared to open for proceeding to any measure therein at this time, but have made concluded to recommend that the further consideration of the subject be referred to our next Yearly Meeting under the care of a committee

Signed on behalf of the Committee

Newport 6mo 17, 1851

Job Eddy

Mary Buffinton

Which having been deliberately considered, is satisfactory, and a proposition being made that the same committee be continued, it was united with, and they are requested (in conjunction with a committee from the womens meeting should they appoint one) to report their judgment in the case to this meeting next year.

Adjourned to the 11th hour tomorrow morning

Fourth day morning the 19th Friends again assembled, according to adjournment

The names of the Representatives were called, and having answered thereto, they were present as at our former sittings

The committee appointed last year to have the superintendence of our Boarding School at Providence, have made the following report.

The committee appointed at our last Yearly Meeting to have charge of our Boarding School at Providence. Report, that they have paid some attention to the object of their appointment, but as the institution, and its funds still remain in the hands of those, who have separated themselves from us, no way has opened for any action in regard to it.

Which is submitted to the meeting on behalf of the committee

17th of 6mo 1851

Palmer Chase

Asenath Buffinton

1851
6mo



Which is accepted, and although, the situation from in which the Institution is placed, the Committee have not been able to accomplish the object of their appointment, yet it is concluded to continue the Committee, (with the exception of our late beloved friends, Ennis Gardner & Seth Davis deceased) and they are requested to sustain such care as may appear necessary, as way open for, and report to this meeting next year.

The committee appointed on third day morning to bring in a list of the names of suitable friends to compose a meeting for sufferings, have produced the following. Viz Francis Taber, John Wilbur Peleg Mitchell, Nathan Page, Daniel Foster Thomas B Gould, Geary F Read, Thomas K Wilbur Palmer Chase, Benjamin Gardner, Job Eddy, William Hill, Benjamin Tucker, William Slade Nathan Buffington, Thomas Wilbur, John T Kenyon Israel Buffington, Charles Perry, Stephen Swift, Levan Varney, Samuel B Chase, Amos & William Howard Craig Thomas Taber jr George M Eddy, William B Diner, Peletiah Tillson, Ethan Foster, Christopher C Hussey. which are satisfactory, and the friends therein named are accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing, as mentioned the appointment may be entered into by the Yearly Meeting.

The committee appointed at a previous sitting to take into consideration, the proposition from Salem & Dover, to unite those meetings, so as to constitute one Quarterly Meeting, have produced the following report.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The committee appointed to take into consideration, the proposition contained in the accounts from Salem & Dover Quarterly Meetings, having met for the purpose, were united in judgment, that it would be proper to grant their request. — Which we submit to the Meeting

On behalf of the Committee

Nathan Buffington
Mary Ann Taber

Newport 6mo 17th 1851

Which being deliberately & weightily considered is satisfactory, and those meetings are accordingly

united, under the name of Salem & Dover Quarterly Meeting of Friends, to be held as follows. On the fourth fifth day ~~in the fifth~~ of the 7th & 8th months at North Berwick, on the fourth fifth day in the fifth month at Salem, and on the fourth fifth day in the 10th month at Lynn. And this meeting directs, that the Junction of the two meetings take place in the 8th month next at Lynn, and the Clerk is directed to furnish those meetings respectively, with a Copy of this minute.

The faithful maintenance of our testimony against Slavery, having been weightily & feelingly brought before the meeting, in connection with the late unrighteous Law of Congress ~~in~~ relative to Fugitive Slaves, the subject was deliberately considered — and it was concluded to refer it to the Meeting for Sufferings, encouraging them to give such attention thereto, as may open for, in order that this important testimony may continue to be faithfully upheld.

Having been favoured during the several sittings of this meeting, as we humbly trust, with a little evidence of divine regard; we have been mercifully favoured to accomplish the important business thereof in near feelings of brotherly love and condescension, under a contrite sense of which we conclude

Peleg Mitchell Clerk
to the meeting this year

A Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island, commencing with public meetings for worship on first day the 13th of 6th mo 1852 and on second day morning the 14th of the same for discipline

By accounts received at this time from Rhode Island, Salem & Dover, & Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, it appears that they have respectively appointed the following friends to attend this meeting as representatives. Viz from Rhode Island John Wilbur Henry Gould, Obadiah Foster, John Mitchell Miller Chace, Nathan Buffinton, Hanney Chace John Foster of Warwick, & Israel Buffinton. Salem & Dover Nathan Page, David Buffum William Hill, Timothy Varney, William Wilbur & Valentine Meader. Sandwich Thomas K Nathan, Charles W Haviland, James Austin Francis Taber, Benjamin Gardner, Francis Taber Jr Jesse Tucker & Moses Mitchell, whose names being called they were all present but one

No account has been received at this time, from Falmouth, Smithfield & Vassalborough & or Fairfield Quarterly Meetings

Rhode Island & Salem & Dover & Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, acknowledge the reception of extracts from the minutes of our last Yearly Meeting & inform that they have directed their several proportions of stock to be paid to our Treasurer. We are further informed from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, that they have united with Nantucket Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Eliza G Coffin for the station of Elder.

We appoint Obadiah Foster & Samuel B Chase of Rhode Island, William Hill & Valentine Meader of Salem & Dover & Moses Mitchell & Benjamin Tucker of Sandwich Quarterly Meetings to examine and settle the Treasurers account, consider of a suitable sum for this meeting to raise for the ensuing year, and to propose a Treasurer.

The meeting entered upon the State of Society, by the reading of the Queries, with answers

from our several Quarterly Meetings, which have reported their state at this time, and the meeting being introduced into a close exercise & concern on account of the deficiencies thus brought to view; an earnest engagement was felt & expressed that concerned Friends in our different Quarterly & Monthly Meetings, should individually as well as in an official capacity, labour in the ability, which may be afforded for their removal.

And Charles Perry & Peleg Mitchell are appointed to produce at our next sitting a summary of the answers received

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, about the time adjourned to Friends again assembled

Nathan Page on behalf of the representatives, having proposed Peleg Mitchell for Clerk of this meeting and Charles Perry for assistant Clerk, the names were separately considered, the proposition united with, and the Friends accordingly appointed to those services respectively for the year ensuing

The Friends appointed this morning to prepare a summary of the answers ~~received~~ to the Queries have produced one, which has been read, and is directed to be recorded.

The records of the meeting for sufferings having been introduced and read at this time were approved, and George F Read, William B Oliver Thomas B Gould, Job Eddy, Thomas Taber Jr, John Wilbur, William Wood, Nathan Buffinton Thomas Wilbur, James Austin, Benjamin Tucker, Samuel B Chace, Israel Buffinton, Charles Perry & Aaron Davis, are appointed to consider of, and lay before this meeting, as a future sitting a list of the names of suitable Friends to constitute a meeting for sufferings for the Year ensuing.

A testimony of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting concerning our late beloved friend Seth Davis deceased, approved in Sandwich Quarterly Meeting & examined by the meeting for sufferings, having been laid before us and read

to an edification and Comfort, is also approved by this meeting, and directed to be recorded.

Adjourned to the Eleventh hour tomorrow morning

13th day morning the 15th met pursuant to adjournment

The names of the representatives being called, they were all present and answered thereto

The Committee of our last Yearly Meeting to whom was referred the weighty Subject of the Standing of Falmouth Smithfield Cas-sabonough and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings have made the following report.

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting

The Committee appointed to take into Consideration, the Situation of Falmouth, Smithfield, Cassabonough and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings, which still continue to neglect to render any account of their State to this Yearly Meeting. Report, That they have taken this trying Subject into deliberate Consideration, which has resulted in the Conclusion to recommend to the Yearly Meeting, that it be continued for another year, under the Care of a Committee

Newport 6mo 15 1852

Signed on behalf of the Committee by Jos. Eddy
Mary Macy

Which after a time of deliberation is approved and a proposition being made, that the same Committee be continued, to unite with a Committee from the womens meeting should they appoint one, to take such further Care and Consideration of the Subject as may appear necessary; it was united with, and they are requested to report their judgment to this meeting next year.

The situation of those Friends who continue faithfully to adhere to the doctrines and testimonies of our religious Society, within the limits of those

who do not report their State to this meeting, having renewedly claimed our Sympathy at this time; and the weight and importance of the subject, being taken into view, in connexion with the difficulties, to which they are subjected, on account of removals and settlements, We appoint our Friends Thomas B Gould, Israel Burlington, William Hill, Harvey Chace, Benjamin Tucker, John Wilbur, Timothy Varney, Jos. Eddy, Nathan Page, Silas Mitchell & Francis Taber. to take the Subject into Consideration in Conjunction with a Committee from the womens meeting, should they appoint one, and report their judgment at a future sitting, as to what action it would be best for the Yearly Meeting to take for the relief of such,

A concern having been weightily opened that our absent ones therein, might through our Epistolary Communication or minute of advice to our Subordinate meetings, in some measure participate with us in the exercises and solemnities into which we have been introduced; and encouraged to a faithful maintenance of our doctrines, and testimonies. We appoint our Friends John Wilbur, Thomas B Gould, Peleg Mitchell, Jos Eddy, William B Oliver, Charles Perry Nathan Page, Thomas Wilbur, Timothy Varney and George F. Read, to unite with a Committee from the womens Meeting, to take the Subject into Consideration and if way open for it, produce an essay of such minute or epistle to a future sitting of this meeting

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, Friends again assembled

The Committee appointed at our first sitting to examine & settle the Treasurers account, Consider of a sum suitable for the meeting to raise and to propose a Treasurer, have produced the following report

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The committee to audit and settle the Treasurers account, and for other purposes — Report that they have attended to their appointment

and find the accounts correctly kept, the receipts duly acknowledged, and the payments satisfactorily vouched for, and there now remains in the Treasurers hands, the sum of Two hundred and thirty four dollars and 49/100. They propose three hundred dollars as a suitable sum to be raised by the meeting for the ensuing year, & they are united in naming Israel Buffinton for Treasurer

On behalf of the Committee

Newport Conn 14th 1852 Valentine Nicholas

Which is satisfactory, and Israel Buffinton is accordingly appointed Treasurer for the year ensuing and our several Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward to him their respective proportions of three hundred dollars, the sum agreed upon: and the Clerk is directed to furnish them with a Copy of this minute.

The committee appointed to lay before us a list of the names of suitable friends to ~~Constitute~~ compose a Meeting for sufferings, have produced the following

Viz Francis Taber, John Wilbur, Peleg Mitchell, Nathan Page, Obed Foster, Thomas B Gould, George T Read, Thomas P Wilbur, Benjamin Gardner, Jab Eddy, William Hill, Benjamin Hunter, William Slade, Nathan Buffinton, Thomas Wilbur, John T Kenyon, Israel Buffinton, Charles Perry, Stephen Arnold, Aaron Carney, Samuel B Chase, Hannah Chace, Francis Taber 2d, George H Eddy, William B Almy, Pelatiah Hussey, Ethan Foster, Christopher C Hussey, Thomas C Wilbur, Miller Chace, Thomas Foster, James Austin, & George C Kenyon, which are approved by the meeting, and they recommend be appointed to constitute a Meeting for sufferings, for the ensuing year or until another appointment shall be entered into by the Yearly Meeting.

The committee appointed to transfer the School Fund have made the following report

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The committee appointed for the purpose of transferring the School Fund from the former to the present

Treasurer thereof — Reported that no way has arisen to effect that object as to make any progress therein

On behalf of the Committee
Benjamin Tuttle

Newport 6mo 15th 1852

Which is accepted and the ~~same Friends~~ subject is continued under the care of the same Friends, to report whenever in their judgment it may appear best, or when called upon to do so by this meeting.

Adjourned to the 4th hour tomorrow afternoon

Fourth day afternoon the 16th met pursuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives being called they were all present and answered thereto

The Joint Committee of men and women Friends to whom was referred the situation of such of the members of this meeting as maintain their adherence to the doctrines and testimonies of our religious society, within the limits of Falmouth, Smithfield, Dartmouth and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings, have produced the following minute

In a view of the difficulties and embarrassments under which divers Friends labour, in consequence of the general defection in principle and insubordination in practice of Falmouth, Smithfield, Dartmouth and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings; it is the conclusion of this meeting, that when cases occur of Friends who have manifested a sincere attachment to our ancient Principles & Testimonies, removing to live within the limits of any Monthly Meeting which is a branch of either Rhode Island, Salem, Dover or Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, and make application to be received as their members; it is agreed that such Monthly Meeting be left at liberty to receive them, and that they be considered as members thereof according to the judgment of such meeting, and upon its receiving satisfactory evidence of their being in unity with Friends of orderly lives and conversation, and of their outward affairs being settled. And in case of their being

in necessitous circumstances, when such application is made, or of their requiring pecuniary assistance afterwards, and within the time already prescribed by our discipline, with regard to the obtaining of settlement, they not having contributed to the funds of the meeting within the limits of which they reside. It is advised that such Friends should become timely and prudent assistance from their respective Monthly Meetings, who are requested (if the matter should prove burdensome to them) to forward their accounts to the meeting for sufferings, which having approved the same; the expense is to be defrayed by a draft on the Treasurer of this meeting.— Which being read and weighthily and deliberately considered, is approved and direction to be recorded. And the subject of such Friends as do not remove, as well, as of those Friends, who reside within the limits of the Three Quarterly Meetings, which report their state to us, and who are not within the acknowledged limits of any sound Monthly Meeting, claiming our consideration. It is also the sense and judgment of this meeting, that the same rules and regulations, may be applied under the direction of best wisdom, to the relief of such sound and consistent Friend, as may continue to reside within the limits of the four delinquent Quarterly Meetings, which have been referred to, as well as to such as are members of the three Quarterly Meetings, which are still duly represented in this; that who may reside, within the limits, of any Monthly Meeting in either of these Quarters, which has not been sustained, in subordination to us, by reason of the great defection in principle, and the prevalent unsoundness in doctrine, existing among the members of such Monthly Meetings generally.

The Friends appointed yesterday morning to unite with a committee from the Womens meeting to consider of the subject, and of way opened for it prepare an essay of a communi-

Caution to our subordinate meetings, and members thereof; enumerating some of the exercises of the meeting and such Counsel and advice as might appear best, have produced the following

Dear Friends

Having been permitted again to meet together in the Capacity of a Yearly Meeting, - and to experience, as we humbly trust, the mine of Ancient Goodness to be mercifully extended over us; and, in and under this precious and solemnizing covering, to feel a living concern for our own preservation and advancement in the Truth; — and also, for the faithful maintenance of those holy Christian Principles and testimonies which have been committed unto us as a peculiar people, called and gathered out of the world, and Customs and manners, as well as the false principles, and Contaminating influences of the world which lieth in wickedness, and in a State of alienation from the life and power of the Gospel which we profess, and most assuredly believe in; — our dear absent brethren and sisters have been feelingly brought to view, with sincere ~~desire~~ and earnest desire, that they also may be made, in some degree, sensible of the unmerited favours which have been vouchsafed at this time, through the good Presence and help of Israel's unslumbering Shepherd, by which our Strength has been somewhat renewed, and our hope and confidence increased, that as watchfulness is abode in, and faithfulness and obedience are maintained, — according to the degree of Divine light, and the measure of the gifts and talent received, we shall not be permitted to fall into the snares of the enemy, however slickly or deceptively they may be spread around us, or however cunningly they may be adapted to the peculiar circumstance in which we are placed, and to the particular weaknesses and infirmities to which we are either more or less subject until the work of redemption and salvation is completed through the effectual operation of His power, who is now as able and as willing to heal us of our spiritual maladies and infirmities, as he was in the

days of his outward and personal appearance among st men, when such as applied unto him in living faith saying "Lord if thou will thou canst make me clean", were made every whit whole.

But, dear friends, we have been afresh, and deeply made sensible at this time, that it will not prove sufficient for any of us, to have had our eyes once anointed to see into the mysteries of Life and Salvation, beyond other professors of the Christian name, and our hearts opened and enlarged to view the spiritual nature and unchangeable character of Christ's Kingdom and government, while the eyes of many of our fellow professors have been blinded by the God of this world; — or even to have witnessed a good Confession of the Saints faith, and maintained the form of sound words and sound doctrines, and to have done so in the life, having been clothed with a degree of true zeal for the support of the ancient doctrines and testimonies of Truth, in opposition to Such, under any own name, as were disposed to lower the standard, and to let the Ark of the Lord's Testimony and Covenant fall to the ground, — but it is also indispensably necessary that we should know an abiding in the vine of life, under the cleansing operation and the needful baptisms of the Holy Spirit; — that so, receiving daily a sufficient portion of bread from Heaven, we may witness a growth and advancement in the truth, and our Connexion with him who declared himself to be "The Vine", being preserved, we shall be enabled to bring forth good fruit, and all our offerings will pass through the fire of God's altar, a Sacrifice to his praise and honour. And thus coming to be witnesses of a living and effectacious faith, which will enable us to overcome the world, and to obtain the victory through an humble, ~~and~~ consistent walking in the light, we shall have true fellowship, one with another,

and the Love of God and of the Brethren will increase and abound amongst us — for this that dwell in him, and in whom he dwells, dwell in Love, and his Divine Light shines round about them, and leads them safely along in the way of life and Salvation.

And in, Conclusion Beloved Friends we would affectionately entreat you, in the Simplicity of Faith and Obedience, to seek the direction of that wisdom which Cometh from above, to guide and govern you in every action, and especially, in in those appertaining to the welfare of the Church of Christ, seeking Continually that holy sense of discrimination, which will infallibly enable to distinguish between that spirit which alone seeketh the righteousness of God, and the Prosperity of the Ever blessed Truth, — and that spirit whose tendency is to lay waste his Heritage, and bring reproach upon that holy Cause, which without either spot or blemish, we are professedly endeavouring to promote.

Which having been read and Solidly Considered, is approved, and the Clerk is directed to sign it on our behalf. And Israel Buffington, Thomas B Gould, Harvey Chace and William Hill are appointed to take the necessary care in having 500 Copies printed for Circulation amongst our members, and they are authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the amount required.

An Epistle of Counsel and encouragement from our Beloved Friend Samuel Cope of East Bradford, Chester County, State of Pennsylvania, has been introduced and read at this time, to our edification and Comfort, and the Clerk is directed to furnish him with a Copy of this minute.

The committee appointed to have Charge of the Boarding School at Providence have made the following report —

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting,

The Committee appointed to have Charge of our Boarding School at Providence, report, That as the Control, and the Issues of the Institution, are still in the hands of those who have separated from us, no way has opened for the the extension of any Care by the Committee since our last report.

Signed on behalf of the Committee

Aaron Vaney

Mary Page

Which is accepted, and the Subject is Continued under the Care of the same Committee, with the exception of our late friend Palmer Chace deceased, to report at such time as they may think necessary, or this meeting may direct.

The Clerk is hereby authorized to make such further necessary extracts from the minutes of this meeting, as are not already provided for, and Sign them on our behalf

Having been favoured to transact the weighty Concerns of the meeting in much brotherly Love and Condescension, a measure of Holy Help being mercifully vouchsafed as we humbly trust (under a Solemn sense thereof) we Conclude purposing to meet again if Consistent with the Divine will in the 6th month next on this Island

Peleg Mitchell Clerk

to the Meeting this year

Testimony of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends concerning Seth Davis

When those who have stood as testimony bearers in the cause of Truth, and as pillars in the Church of Christ, have been called from an earthly to as we believe an Heavenly habitation, it seemeth meet that those who are sensible of the loss themselves and the Church have sustained thereby, should give forth some Memorial of their worth and Christian character.

Our beloved Friend Seth Davis, the subject of the following testimony, was born in Rochester Massachusetts, the 10th of 4mo 1783.

He was the son of Nicholas and Hannah Davis of whom his father only was a member of the Society of Friends, consequently he was debarred in early life of many of the privileges and advantages which the Children of Friends enjoy.

On the year 1809 he was united in marriage with Mary Howland of Dartmouth, and in 1817 believing it required of him to apply for admission into membership with Friends, he gave up to the manifestation of duty therein and was thereupon received a member of Dartmouth Monthly Meeting. In 1828 he was appointed to the station of an Elder, which station he filled to the satisfaction of Friends. He proved himself to be a faithful watchman on the walls of Jerusalem, giving warning of the approach of the enemy. In later time when efforts have been made to introduce unsoundness within our once peaceful borders, our dear friend earnestly withstood all attempts to change the faith and doctrines of the society as professed and upheld by our forefathers in the Truth believing that as our Lord and Master Jesus Christ is the same yesterday to day and forever, his humble followers in all ages, drink at the same fountain, partook of the same cup, were baptized with the

Same Baptism, - the Apostle saith "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ." He was zealously engaged for the promotion of good order in meetings; and in meetings for discipline he became eminently useful, having been instructed and qualified therefor in the School of Christ, endeavouring, as one believing to act accordingly with that precept of the Gospel, that "Whatsoever ye would, that men should do to you do ye even so to them" Whilst he was diligent in meetings, he evinced a fervency of Spirit serving the Lord, not suffering his temporal Concerns to divert his attention from the attendance of our religious Meetings, although he was in some degree dependant, during the early period of his membership, upon his daily labour for the support of his family. He also felt it his duty to advise and encourage others to a faithful ~~maintenance~~ performance of this branch of our christian testimony, laboring for this purpose, both in meetings and ~~in~~ private opportunities as occasion called for and his mind seemed opened thereto. He was also diligent in the attendance of our Yearly and Quarterly Meetings, not willing easily discouraged or hindered therefrom, either by the infirmities of body, or other difficulties, saying "the discipline enjoins upon us the attendance of all our meetings". For the younger part of Society he felt a strong Solicitude, that there might be a succession of Standard bearers to take the places of those that might be removed, often shaping a word of encouragement to such as he believed to be devoted to the Cause of Truth. And for those who had left the Society through the influence of a separating Spirit, he often expressed much Concern, and manifested a strong desire that they might be enabled to see the error of their ways before it was too late. As he advanced in years the infirmities of his body increased upon him, yet with these came also an increase of Spiritual Strength, a short time previous to his decease he expressed himself to this effect, that he apprehended his Stay would be short, that the time was rapidly approaching when he desired to be clear of the blood of all men. As it was his first and greatest Concern to be found doing his masters will,

suppliment to deter him from the discharge of any duty
which he believed to be required of him. For some years
previous to his death he was subject to frequent attack
as of a painful disorder so that at times as he said he was
not capacitated of being free from pain for months to-
gether. In the course of his sickness when friends
called to see him it appeared to give him great satisfac
tion, and his conversation with them was both in-
structive and edifying. His health during the winter
had been better than for some time previous, so that
he attended to his business and most of the meetings
as they came in course. His last illness was short
being confined to his house only a few days, dur-
ing this period he made no allusion to his temporal
affairs, as he had on former occasions. The day before
his decease the physician remarked to him that he did
not see any thing, but that he might soon get back
to where he was the week previous, after a short pause
he replied, "I believe not 22 I believe I am waning
out pretty fast." ——— Having endeavoured to do his
days work in the day time we believe he was in mercy
prepared for his final change, Several times in the
course of his sickness he was engaged in solemn
supplication, and on first day afternoon he fervent
ly prayed that if it were consistent with the divine
will he desired that he might soon be released,
that the work might be cut short in righteousness
and that an easy passage might be granted him,
which appeared to be mercifully realized for he pass-
ed quietly away without sigh or struggle, on
second day the third of third month eighteen hun-
dred and fifty one in the 68th year of his age

Signed on behalf and by direction of
Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of Friends held in
Dartmouth 24th of 3d mo 1852 Thomas R Willis } Clerks
By Alice Willis }

A Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Smithfield in Rhode Island commencing with Public Meetings for worship on first day the 12th of June 1853 and on second day morning the 13th of the same for discipline.

By accounts received at this time from Rhode Island, Salem & Dover and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, it appears they have respectively appointed the following named Friends as representatives to this meeting. Viz from Rhode Island John Wilbur, Obediah Foster, Thomas B Gould Israel Buffington, Miller Thayer, George & George C Hazard, Eli Thayer & Hannah Thayer, from Salem & Dover, William Hill Timothy Varney, Nathan Page, George F Read, and Valentine Meader. From Sandwich Benjamin Gardner, Job Eddy, Benjamin Hoxter, Thomas R Wilbur, Christopher C Hussey, Francis Taber Jr & Peleg Mitchell, whose names being called they were all present but one.

No account has been received at this time from Falmouth, Smithfield & Vassalboro and Quarterly Meeting

Rhode Island, Salem & Dover and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, acknowledge the reception of Extracts from the minutes of last this meeting last year embracing an Epistolary communication & inform that they have directed their several proportions of Stock to be paid to our Treasurer. We are also informed from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that in the 7th month last, they united with a Minute Passed that Meeting in the appointment of Judith Swift to the Station of an Elder, and in the 12th mo. with Dartmouth

Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Thomas
R Wilbur, and with Nantucket Monthly Meet-
ing in the appointment of James Austin to
the same Station

We appoint Nancy Chace & Ethan Foster
of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, Comm-
on Peace and William Hill of Salem & Obadiah
& Thomas R Wilbur & James Austin of Nantuck-
et, to examine and settle the Trustees
account; agree upon a Sum, suitable for
the meeting to raise for the ensuing year,
and to propose a Treasurer

The Clerk has given the information
that he has received an Epistle addressed
to this meeting from a Yearly Meeting held
the Yearly Meeting of Friends at New York
held at Scipio Ridge Cayuga County in
that State: and concurred with them
in the Epistle, with the same exhortation, with
in the limits of the ancient Yearly Meeting
of that name; we appoint our Friends Thomas
Bedgood, Israel Buffington, Thomas Hilton
John Hilton, Nathan Pope, Jab Eddy
William Hill, Peleg Mitchell, Charles Perry,
Francis Baker Jr, Benjamin Gardner,
Timothy Varney & Valentine Mauder, to
take the Subject into Consideration, make
such investigation of the Circumstances
connected with it, as the importance of it
may seem to require, and report their judg-
ment thereon to a future sitting of this Meet-
ing.

Peleg Mitchell & Charles Perry are appointed
to prepare a Summary of the answers to the
Queries received at this time and lay them
before an adjournment of this meeting.

[illegible] to be read in their [illegible] at the close of this Sitting, and Conclude upon the names of suitable Friends to propose to serve the meeting as Clerk and assistant Clerk for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, met pursuant to adjournment.

Thomas Bland on behalf of the Representative Committee reported that they were united in proposing Peleg Mitchell for Clerk of this meeting for the ensuing year, and Charles Yerkes for assistant Clerk; the names were severally considered, the proposition united with and they appointed and the Friends were accordingly appointed to those services respectively.

The meeting entered upon the State of Society, by the reading of the Queries, with the answers thereto from [illegible] Meetings, which were given in for their State to us at this time, and the Friends appointed this morning to prepare a summary of the answers have produced one, which has been read and is directed to be recorded. The deficiencies brought to [illegible] of the Queries, were cause of painful exercise to the meeting, and living desires were felt, and much tender Counsel being administered, in which Friends were encouraged to seek for ability to stand faithfully in the Lights of the precious testimonies given us to bear and particularly as it relates to a free and rightly exercised Gospel Ministry.

## Summary Answers

Answer 1st. All our meetings for religious worship and discipline have been attended, by the most of our members; and such meetings appear to be more regulated by some. One account states that some cases are under notice: The hour is mostly observed; Friends are generally preserved from sleeping, and clear of other unbecoming behaviour.

Ans 2d Love and unity are in a good degree maintained and detraction guarded against as far as appears when differences arise endeavours are used to end them

1st Most Friends appear to be concerned to bear a
[illegible] testimony, in plainness of speech
behaviour and apparel, to refrain them from vain
sportings and pastimes and from the
conversation
of the world, such being good examples before men.
in themselves; while some do not appear to be sufficient-
ly alive to the importance of these testimonies. The
Holy Scriptures appear to be frequently read in
Friends families.

4th Friends are careful to confine the use of their
[illegible] to moderation, with an exception,
do for as it is known. The unnecessary encumbering of
[illegible] is to be avoided. Of late instances
of attending other places of public resort is no-
ticed in one of the answers; moderation appears
to be observed on the occasions referred to.

5th The circumstances of the poor appear to be duly
inspected and their necessities relieved. Friends
children partake of learning, none are reported
as [illegible] and those [illegible]

6th Parents and masters families with the young
and unmarried appear to be generally care-
ful that the proceedings with respect to marriage
be conformable to the discipline. Two accounts
notice some exception with respect to marriage,
and one a case of keeping company with a
person not in membership with us; in all which
same care has been extended.

7th [illegible] against the payment of tithes
wages, hearings arms and the other matters con-
tained in this query appear to be faithfully
maintained, except a few instances of attending
meetings where there is a hireling ministry; in
which same care has been taken.

8th Friends are generally concerned with respect to the
several points of this query.

9th Marriage certificates are duly procured, with the
exceptions mostly [illegible] which
are reported: in some of which care has been taken

10th A good degree of care appears to be taken to [illegible] and also
to [illegible] required by the discipline and also
to place judgment when it appears necessary in conformity therewith

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning.

Third day morning the 14th Friends again assembled

The names of the representatives from each, the [illegible] were read at their several sittings.

The minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings were introduced at this time, & on being read were approved, and a proposition having been made that the Friends composing that body, be continued, to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, it was united with, and they were accordingly appointed to that service, with the exception of our late deceased Friend William Slade deceased. The names are as follows Viz. Francis Taber, John Wilbur, Nathan Pope, Obadiah Foster, Peleg Mitchell, Thomas Brownell, George Macy, Thomas Mitchell, Jun., Stephen Gardner, Benjamin Gardner, Joseph Tilley, William Hill, Benjamin Gardner, Nathan Sisson, Thomas Wilbur, Daniel Sisson, Thomas Peirce, Stephen Swift, Simeon Tripp, Hannah Chase, Hannah Chace, Francis Gardner, George Mosher, William Peirce, Patrick Hussey, Ethan Foster, Christopher C. Hussey, Isaac C. Wilbur, Peter Chace, Thomas Foster, Isaac Austin and George C. Hanson.

The committee appointed yesterday morning, to examine and settle the Treasurers account and to propose a Treasurer, have made the following report.—

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

We the committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account, and other purposes. Report— That we have attended to that service and find that the have been kept in a correct and satisfactory manner. We find in the hands of the Treasurer three hundred and nine dollars, and [illegible] three cents, and recommend that four hundred dollars be be raised for the use of the meeting the

ensueing year, and Joshua Israel, Superintendent
Treasurer to take charge of the Committee
Ethan Foster

[illegible]

Which is united with, and Israel Buffington is accordingly appointed a delegate to this meeting for the ensueing year, and our several Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward to him, their respective proportions of four hundred dollars the sum agreed upon, and the Clerk is directed to forward them with a copy of this minute.

An extract from the last will and testament of our late esteemed friend Abner Hill deceased, has been introduced and read at this time; by which, it appears that he has bequeathed in trust to our friends, Thomas H. Wilson, Israel Buffington and George M. Cady, and to their successors in office; the sum of two thousand dollars, for the use of this meeting, and three hundred dollars to the Meeting;— which claiming the consideration of this meeting, it is the conclusion thereof to accept the Legacy, and we appoint our friends William Hill, Thomas Chace, Valentine Wanton, Thomas Hoyle and Charles Low Thomas Wilson and Abraham Anthony, to act on behalf of this meeting, in advising and assisting the Trustees, in making such investments and dispositions of the Funds, as may be expedient; and on all other subjects connected, with the intention of the donor; and they are requested to report to this meeting next year. The meeting further directs that the extract from the will be placed upon record.

Adjourned to the 9th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, and meeting is adjourned.

An Epistle from our beloved Friends Josiah L and Isaac Hacker of Portland New Jersey, having been introduced to the Meeting, was read to our Satisfaction and Comfort. The Clerk was directed to place it on file and forward to those Friends a Copy of this minute signed on our behalf.

Adjourned to the 3d hour tomorrow afternoon.

Eighth day afternoon the 15th Friends again assembled agreeable to adjournment.

The names of the Representatives being called, they were present as heretofore

Information being laid before us at this time by direction of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, that our Friends John Wilbur had been liberated by that Body to perform a visit in Gospel Love to Friends and others in some parts of Great Britain and Ireland and Friends for [illegible]

Great Britain, Benjamin Tucker, Isley Hilton Charles Perry, Benjamin Gardner, Francis Taber and Thomas B Gould, are appointed a Committee, with whom he may confer and advise with respect to a suitable companion in this arduous service, & to see that he has proper accomadations for the journey.

The peculiarly trying situation of the situation of Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalboro, and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings, has claimed the ~~Consideration~~ attention of the meeting, by the introduction of the following report from the committee, heretofore appointed to take the subject into consideration

Viz— To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee to whom was referred the continued painful situation of Falmouth, Smithfield, Vassalboro, and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings; report, that they have had the subject under their serious consideration during the past year, yet that no way has appeared to them for any action thereon, and we therefore re-

commend that it be continued for another year
under the care of a committee

Newport Cmo 15th 1755

In behalf of the committee

Job Eddy
Clerk pro Tem

Which is accepted, and the subject is referred agreeable to what is therein recommend, to our Friends
[illegible], William Hill, [illegible], Nathan Page,
Israel Brightman, Isaac Lake, Thomas Hilton,
Ichabod Austin, Timothy Davis, Valentine Wood,
[illegible], Indian Brightman, [illegible]
Henry, Charles [illegible] Aaron Lawton, who are
requested & encouraged, in connexion with a
committee from the several monthly Meetings, should they ap-
point one, to give such attention to it as its importance calls for, and report their judgment to this
meeting next year

Adjourned to the 3d hour to morrow
afternoon.

Fifth day afternoon the 16th a half hour time
adjourned to, the meeting is met

The names of the representatives here called
they were present as heretofore.

The committee to whom was referred
the subject of the Epistle, introduced to the
meeting at its first sitting, have made the
following report thereon.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The joint committee of men and women
Friends, appointed to take into consideration the
proper disposal of certain Epistles addressed to this
Yearly Meeting, by a Body lately convened at
Poplar Ridge Cayuga County in the State of New York,
professing to be [illegible] Meeting;

Report, that after a patient investigation
of the circumstances, preceding and attending the
gathering of that Body, derived from the minutes the
documents, which have been issued by them and
[illegible] Quarterly Meetings, [illegible]
passed, and such other sources of information as
have come within our reach, including the
testimony of several Friends who are now recd.

Meeting with no proposal of these Epistles. Meeting;
we have concluded to recommend to the Yearly
Meeting, to receive & read these Epistles, as ema-
nations from the Yearly Meeting of Friends
of New York

We have come to this conclusion first,
from satisfaction, because we believe that
these are Communications that Convey the
precious truths and upheld our ancient
doctrines and Testimonies, as professed by
that sound mixture of error, which has so
mournfully overspread the Society of latter
time. In common with us they have long
been [illegible] in this [illegible]
and after many unavailing efforts to
prevent and avert these desolations they have
refused to become partners with those who
have caused them, and been a faithful testi-
mony against such innovations and their un-
sound doctrines. — And in the measures which
have resulted in their reorganization as a Yearly
Meeting we believe they have proceeded with
caution and according to the best wisdom af-
forded them, and that a Consoling and Con-
vincing evidence was mercifully vouchsafed
to them under [illegible] in this Capacity,
that they were owned by the Great Head of
the Church.

We further view that the Yearly Meeting
which now met in the City of New York, un-
der the appellation of "New York Yearly Meeting"
and with which this meeting formerly corres-
ponded, has departed from its ancient in-
tegrity and purity, inasmuch as it received
with open arms, and by its acts, cordially
reccommended the late Joseph John Gurney
who was the principal author of those un-
sound writings which have caused so great
uneasiness among all rightly concerned
Friends; on the occasion of his visit to this
Country as a Minister some years ago,

furnishing him with a testimonial of their approbation and approval on his return home.

That Body also gave its sympathy and active aid to those within our limits who introduced and by unwarrantable and oppressive measures upheld, this detection in error and doctrine in New England, until the last visits and true character of this Yearly Meeting.

Visits of Correspondents received by them from the Yearly Meetings held here were sent down to their Subordinate meetings, and in some instances enforced upon. The acceptance of such inferior doctrines by sending down a Committee and incorporating with said meetings; thus controlling the action there against the well grounded and Scriptural convictions of many Friends; carrying this measure to the extent of Causing a Separation in one Monthly Meeting.

It required to Contrast the doctrinal views of Joseph John Gurney with the Standard doctrines of the Society, when called upon to do so by a subordinate meeting, and gave its aid in the Circulation and currency of those writings.

It originated the measure of a Conference of delegates from different Yearly Meetings on this Continent, including that which he governs in New England, and proposed to extend it to that of London; which Conference met several years at Baltimore with the object of effecting a union of all, against those who have withstood the innovations; and although this measure has proved unsuccessful, and been abandoned, yet this body which originated it, appears to have used its utmost endeavours to carry its design into effect.

another evidence, if more be wanting to prove that this body has wholly lost sight of the ground of ancient Quakerism, is to be found in the fact that it has modified and altered the standard of our Christian discipline, by making alterations therein in nearer accordance with the principles and practices of those towards whose views the modified doctrines are tending.

Under these circumstances the body which was once truly denominated the Yearly Meeting of Friends in New York having departed thus widely from its former estate, as in our judgment no longer entitled to that name or character; — and those who have adhered to the principles testimonies and practices of Friends having re-established a Yearly Meeting on original ground, we believe it right for us to acknowledge its validity and our fellowship therewith, in the bonds of the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

a Minute 16 of 6 mo 1853

Signed in attendance and on behalf of the Committee by Valentine Meader Mary Paige

Which is approved; and the Epistle, in a verbal recommendation from the Committee having been read at our sitting yesterday and the subject of preparing an essay upon it to be read, if we should deem it, being left to the same Committee at that time, they have now produced one, which having been read, is also approved and the Clerk is directed to sign and forward it.

The clerk is authorized to make such further necessary extracts from our minutes, as are not already provided for, as

deign them an our behalf.

The various and important concerns which have come before the meeting, have now been acted upon, and accomplished, - and we have been reminded of the truth of that emphatic declaration of our Divine Master, when he said, "Without me ye can do nothing." Believing that through a deep exercise, that this Holy Power (of this) Society might be preserved in its purity, we have been mercifully vouchsafed as we humbly trust; under a solemnizing sense of which, and in near feelings of unity and love to one another, we conclude, purposing if consistent with the Divine will, to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year.

Peleg Mitchell
Clerk

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Extract from the Will of Abner Sisson -

Thirtieth -- I give, devise, and bequeath twenty-five hundred dollars, to my friends Thomas B Hillman of Dartmouth Israel Brightman of Fall River and George H Eddy of Dartmouth, all of the county of Bristol and Commonwealth of Massachusetts and their successors in office, upon the uses and trusts following, namely; in trust to be invested by them for the benefit and use of the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, agreeably to the direction of said Meeting. The income of said bequest to be paid annually to said meeting as they may direct, except the annual income of five hundred dollars of the said bequest, which I direct my said trustees and their successors in office to pay to Rhode Island monthly meeting of Friends which is now holden in Newport Rhode Island, as long as the said monthly Meeting shall exist and continue to be of the same religious faith and character as the

Yearly Meeting to which I shall hereinafter
describe,— the said Trustees to keep a true record
of all sums paid to said monthly meeting.
When it shall happen that one or more of the
said Trustees decease or resign said trust, or
when it shall appear to the aforesaid Yearly Meet-
ing that a change had better be made, it shall
be the duty of the Yearly Meeting aforesaid aforc-
said from time to time to appoint a successor
or successors with power in said trust, a copy
of the minute of which appointment shall
be recorded in the book of record to be kept
by the Trustees. It is further is that when
the Trustees above named, or the survivors or
survivor of them, or a part of them should not
be living at the time of my decease shall come
into possession of the said bequest, that they or
he as it may be, procure a suitable book of
record, to be kept for a record of all their
doings in relation to said fund. This
article of my last will and Testament to be
the first thing recorded therein. The said
records to be at all times subject to the in-
spection of any member or members of
the said Yearly Meeting.

That Yearly Meeting to which this be-
quest is made, is that distinguished from any
other of the same name who does or may
denominate itself New England Yearly Meet-
ing by this characteristic, that is to say, that
Yearly Meeting to which this bequest is made
is that Yearly Meeting which believes in
the Original Doctrine and principles of
the Society of the People called Quakers
as Friends, as first promulgated by George
Fox, Nathan Penn, Robert Barclay, Geo.
Whitehead, Edward Burrough and others
of the same faith, and which denies, re-
nounces and disowns all doctrines and
principles that are contradictory, and
repugnant to the entire and plain doctrines

of the orthodox called Friends, and renounce all the
doctrines, as now taught preached and published by
Elias Hicks, Joseph John Gurney and Edward Bish that are
at direct variance from that published by Robert
Barclay and others aforesaid. And whereas certain per-
sons of latter time in the society have imbibed and prop-
agated certain views and doctrines, repugnant to the genuine
doctrine of the society of Friends as held and laid
down in Robert Barclays Apology for the true Christian
Divinity, a work ever held in high esteem and is in
perfect consonance with their principles, and those certain
persons and others adhering to their views having suc-
ceeded in drawing off from the Faith of the Society
numbers and formed them into Separate Bodies, depar-
ting and defecting from said Faith and their ancient
principles, thereby said bodies have effectually separated
themselves from the principles of Friends, and while diligen-
nously and pertinaciously claim and profess to be friends
in principle.

And whereas Meetings of such friends will be
erected is not made, and it is my intent that this dona-
tion shall not be possessed or held in trust by any
persons or body of people, that may elect or refuse to
condemn, reprobate and disavow the unsound doctrines
of Elias Hicks, Joseph John Gurney and Edward Bish,
and all other which are at variance with from the
doctrines of Fox, Penn and Barclay and their associates
in profession. Wm. F. Wilson Executor

Dartmouth 8 mo. 16th mo 1853

1854

Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Pembarton Rhode Island commencing with public meetings for worship on first day the 11th of 6th mo 1854 and on second day morning the 12th the same for discipline

Accounts having been received from Rhode Island, Salem, Dover, Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, the friends therein named to attend this meeting as representatives, are from Rhode Island, John Wilbur, Thomas B Gould, Daniel Foster, William Wood, John Keenan, Walter Chace, Levi Chace, John Foster. Salem, Dover, Nathan Page, William Hill, Josiah Moses, Valentine Hoadley, William B Oliver. Sandwich, Silas Mitchell, Thomas H Wilbur, Daniel C Hussey, Francis Baker, Benjamin Baker, Nathan Hall, who were all present but four three of whom were necessarily absent in the attendance of the funeral of a friend, and the other by reason of sickness in his family.

No accounts have been received at this time from Falmouth, Smithfield, Nassachusetts and Plainfield Quarterly Meetings

An Epistle from New York Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Poplar Ridge Cayuga County in that State, has been received and read to our satisfaction & comfort, and we appoint our friends Valentine Hoadley, Thomas B Gould, Silas Mitchell, Francis Baker & John Wilbur to prepare an essay of an Epistle to that meeting if way should open for it, & lay it before a future sitting.

Rhode Island, Salem & Dover, and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, acknowledge the reception of extracts from the minutes of this meeting last year, and generally inform that they have directed their proportion of stock to be paid to our Treasurer.

We are further informed by Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that they united in the 9th month last, with New Bedford Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Stephen Swift to the station of an Elder.

Information having been received in the account from Salem and Dover Quarterly Meeting that Friends at Lynn have been deprived of the usual place of holding their meetings, and that, but a small proportion of the rent necessary to provide

another suitable place for that purpose, had been raised within their limits, we therefore appoint Benjamin Tucker, George M Eddy, Israel Buffington, Benjamin Crandall, John Slade, Charles Perry, George C Kenyon, and Luther Baldwin to take the subject into consideration, confer with the representatives from that Quarter, and report their judgment to a future sitting as to what course it may be proper for this meeting to pursue in relation to it.

The representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting and agree upon the names of suitable friends to propose to the adjournment of this meeting for Clerk & assistant Clerk.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met pursuant to adjournment.

Valentine Mender on behalf of the representatives, reported that they were united in proposing Peleg Mitchell for Clerk of this meeting and Charles Perry for assistant Clerk, the names were separately considered, the proposition united with and they were accordingly appointed to those services respectively for the year ensuing.

We appoint John Paster & George C. Kenyon of Rhode Island, Pelatiah Hussey and William B Oliver of Salem & Lancr, and George M Eddy & Benjamin Tucker of Vandewick Quarterly Meetings to examine and settle the Treasurers account, agree upon a sum suitable for the meeting to raise for the ensuing year and to propose a Treasurer.

The clerk & assistant clerk are requested to prepare a summary of the answers to the queries and produce it at our next sitting.

The minute adopted by this Yearly Meeting in the year 1752 in relation to sound friends residing within the limits of such of our Quarterly & ~~Meetings~~ Monthly Meetings, as have not maintained their adherence to the doctrines and testimonies of our religious society, having been adverted to and read at this time, and the subject of extending ~~some of~~ having been considered the privileges therein enumerated, to such sound and consistent friends as reside within the limits of other Yearly Meetings not in correspondence with us, and who may wish to remain within the bounds

of this Yearly Meeting. He appoint our friend William Hill, Thomas B Gould, Charles Perry, Thomas H Wilbur, Ebenezer Austin, Ethan Foster, Valentine Meader, Israel Buffington and Thomas Wilbur to take the subject into consideration, in conjunction with a committee from the womens meeting, should they appoint one and report their judgment thereon to a future sitting.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning.

3d day morning the 13th Friends again assembled pursuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives being called they were all present but two

The meeting entered upon the ~~State~~ the consideration of the State of Society by the reading of the Queries, with the answers from such of our Quarterly Meetings as have reported their state to us at this time, and a summary thereof having also been produced by the Friends to whom that service was refered; it was read, and being approved, was directed to be recorded.

The deficiencies brought to our notice by the reading of the answers to the queries were cause of painful exercise to the meeting, and although it was likely that the most of those, who were the means by their unfaithfulness, of bringing mourning over the minds of their brethren, were not present with us, yet expressions of deep regret for the departures manifested, were called forth on the occasion, and Overseers, and other Concerned Friends, were tenderly entreated and encouraged to labour in the love of the truth, for the removal of these deficiencies from amongst us, being renewedly made sensible, that greater faithfulness and dedication, ~~therein~~ were called for at our hands. An earnest solicitude, was also felt for the preservation of our beloved youth, from the contaminating influence of the world;

parents and others being faithfully encouraged to
seek for that ability, which will enable them to
exercise such a restraining influence over the
dear young people under their care, as will be
likely to preserve them from an undue exposure to the many temptations, by which they
are surrounded, and keep them within our
own enclosure, and that thus through a right
preparation of heart, they may become instruments of usefulness in their day.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, about the time adjourned to,
Friends again assembled

The committee appointed to examine and
settle the Treasurers account and for other
purposes have made the following report

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

We your Committee appointed to examine & settle
the Treasurers account and for other purpo
ses, report that we have attended to the app-
ointment, and find said account to have been
correctly kept; and that there is a balance in
his hands of Three hundred fifty nine 77/100
dollars;— and we propose that the Yearly Meet-
ing raise the sum of Three hundred dollars
to defray the current expenses of the Yearly Meet-
ing for the coming year: we also propose
Israel Buffinton for Treasurer

Newport 6mo/3/1854 George A Eddy
on behalf of the Committee

Which was read and approved and
Israel Buffinton was accordingly appointed
Treasurer of this meeting for the ensuing
year, and our several Quarterly Meetings
are requested to forward to him, their re-
spective proportion of three hundred dol-
lars, (the sum agreed upon) and the clerk
is directed to furnish them with a copy of
this minute.

The committee appointed yesterday morn-
ing in relation to the subject contained in the
account from Salem & Dover Quarterly Meet-

1854 212

ing, in reference to the purchase of a lot and the erection of a meeting House at Lynn, have made the following report—

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the application from Salem & Lynn Quarterly Meeting, in relation to the erection of a meeting house for Friends at Lynn — Report, That they have conferred with the Representatives from that Quarter, and find that much necessity exists for the accomodation of Friends there in this respect, and we have Concluded to recommend to the Yearly Meeting to promote a ~~Tax~~ voluntary subscription among our members generally, to raise the sum of nine hundred dollars, for that purpose, in addition to what may be raised within Salem Monthly Meeting for the same object

Benjamin Tucker
For the Committee

Newport 6mo 13 1854

Which being considered is united with, & the Friends appointed at that time, are continued with the addition of Harvey Chace, Elijah Hussey, Francis Taber, Walter Chace, Isaac Wilbur and William B Chace to receive Subscriptions of Friends towards raising the amount recommended in the report, and when raised, apply it to the purpose designed, & they are requested to report to the meeting next year

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been introduced and read at this time were approved, and a proposition being made that the Friends composing that body last year, should be continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, it was united with, and they were accordingly continued and appointed to that service, with the exception of our late beloved Friends Francis Taber and Jabez Eddy deceased.

The Committee appointed last year to advise and assist the Trustees of the legacy of our late Friend Ann[illegible]s deceased, as expressed in the minute at that time, have

produced the following report.—

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed last year to revise and assist the Trustees of the Ministers' Fund Legacy Report, that we have attended to the duties of our appointment, & that said Legacy has been disbursed of in the following manner.—

Viz. Five hundred dollars of said sum has been loaned to Rhode Island Monthly Meeting—and the remaining sum of two thousand dollars, has been placed on deposit at the Fall River institution for savings.— the dividend on which has been paid to our Treasurer up to 4th mo, 1854

Jonathan Chase 13 On behalf of the Committee
1854 Thomas Wilbur

Which is satisfactory to the meeting, and the Committee are released from any further care in the Case.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning

2d day morning the 14th met pursuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives being called then were all present but one.

The following extract from the minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers & Elders having been read and the subject there considered, the alteration of the time of holding Salem and Dover Quarterly Meeting of Ministers & Elders, as proposed, is approved by this and the ensuing meeting, and the Clerk is directed to furnish Salem & Dover Quarterly Meeting with a copy of this minute

Extract

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

Salem and Dover Quarterly Meeting of Ministers and Elders, having presented for our consideration. That in future the said Meeting should commence at the second hour in the afternoon of the day preceding that on which the Quarterly Meeting at large is held in the 6th month, also in the 12th month, instead of the Eleventh hour as heretofore, and appointed William Hill to lay the proposition before the Yearly Meeting for its decision:

this meeting unites therewith; and the Clerk is directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute to be presented to the Yearly Meeting

Extracted from the minute of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers & Elders held at Newport 10th of 6mo 1854

By Thomas B Gould Clerk

The committee to whom was referred the consideration of the continued omission of Falmouth Smithfield, Passa.hornaugh, & Swanton Quarterly Meetings, to report their State to this meeting have presented the following report.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The joint Committee of men and women Friends, appointed last year, and charged with the consideration of the long continued insubordination of Falmouth, Smithfield, Passa.hornaugh and Fairfield Quarterly Meetings, to report, that the subject has claimed their serious deliberation, and they are united in recommending to the Yearly Meeting to discontinue the practice of noticing upon our minutes the neglect of those Quarterly Meetings to report their State to us, — and also to release the Committee now under appointment from further service in the case; and that the subject be left to rest impressively upon the minds of Friends until way may open for further action by the Yearly Meeting

On behalf of the Committee

Newport 6mo 13 1854

Valentine Wanton
Phebe Foster

Which was read and being duly considered it was approved, our women's meeting uniting therein, and in accordance with the suggestion contained in the report, the Committee were released from further care.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon

P.M. met pursuant to adjournment

The committee appointed at a previous sitting to consider the subject of extending the minute of 1852 have recommended to the Yearly Meeting the adoption of the following

It is the sense and judgment of this meeting that so much of the minute adopted in the year 1852 as relates to removals, be extended and its benefits applied to such sound and consistent friends as may remove into any Monthly Meeting within the limits of either State Island, Salem or Danvers Quarterly Meeting from within the limits of other Yearly Meetings, on their producing a solicitation to such Monthly Meeting, and producing such evidence of their right of membership, and the settlement of their outward affairs as is required in said minute. — Which having been read & approved, the womens meeting uniting therein, and the Clerk is directed to forward a Copy thereof to our several Quarterly Meetings.

The committee appointed at our first sitting to prepare, if we should see it, an essay or Epistle to our Yearly Meeting of Friends have prepared one at this time, which being read was approved, and the Clerk was directed to sign and forward it

The clerk is directed to make such ~~your~~ necessary ~~of~~ records from our minutes as are not already provided for and sign them on our behalf

We can thankfully acknowledge that we have been favoured at seasons during our being together, with a little evidence that the Lord of ancient goodness has been measurably spread over us, tendering our minds and solemnizing sense of which, we have been enabled to accomplish the important business brought before us; the cementing influence of gospel love having been felt to flow amongst us, to the tendering of many minds, under this precious feeling we conclude; purposing to meet again on this 1st. and at the usual time next year if consistent with the divine will.

Peleg Mitchell Clerk

1854 216

Summary of the answers to the Queries

Answer 1st— All our meetings for religious worship & discipline have been attended — those on first days by most of our members — Mid week meetings and those for discipline are more neglected by some: the ham is much lessened: a few not wholly preserve their simplicity — No other unbecoming behaviour noticed. Care appears to have been taken in some of the above deficiencies.

Ans 2d — Love and Unity are generally maintained amongst us — Detraction is in good measure guarded against — Differences are reported.

Ans 3d Friends appear to be generally careful to bring up those under their direction in Plainness, and to restrain them from Superfluous reading and Corrupt Conversation; yet there are some exceptions reported in these respects; they are mostly exemplary herein themselves, and the Holy Scripture appear to be frequently read in their families.

Ans 4th Friends appear to be careful to Continue the use of Spiritous liquors to Medicine with that little exception. — The unnecessary frequenting of Taverns and other places of Public resort, mostly avoided, a good degree of moderation appears to be observed on the account of births, marriages, burials and on other occasions.

Ans 5th The circumstances of the poor are duly attended to, and no neglect is reported in regard to the other parts of this Query.

Ans 6th Friends are mostly careful that all proceedings with respect to marriage, be conformable to our Discipline. — One case of marriage with a person not a member is reported.

1754

Dec 5th Friends are generally engaged to maintain an Testimony against the payment of Priests wages; yet an exception is made in one of the reports, an account of a few members, who sometimes attend meetings where priests wages are paid. Mostly clear in the other parts of this Query. Some care taken

Dec 7th — Friends are generally engaged in the general parts of this query — One exception is mentioned in one of the accounts which is under notice.

Dec 9th — Marriages are duly recorded, births, deaths and burials mostly so; several removals without Certificate are reported — most of which are under notice.

Dec 14th — A good degree of care appears to be taken to deal with offenders in the manner prescribed after, and to place judgment where it appears necessary, according to our discipline; yet some instances of delay in timely dealing are referred to in one of the accounts.

1855

214

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held at Newport on Rhode Island, Commencing with a Public meeting for worship, on first day the 10th of 6th mo. 1855, and on second day morning the 11th at the same for discipline

Accounts having been received from our several Quarterly Meetings as hereto-fore, it appears the following named friends were appointed to attend this meeting as representatives. From Rhode Island William Hill, John Wilbur, Daniel Easton, Thomas B Gould, Hanna Chace, Israel Buffington, Charles Dennis, Levi Chace & Jeremiah Easton. From Salem Quarter, Nathan Page, Isaac Barney, Timothy Barney, Valentine Mosher and William B Wing. From Sandwich Francis Jones, Benjamin Gardner, Jno Mitchell, Thomas H Wilbur, Benjamin Tucker and Stephen Swift, whose name having been called they were all present but three, for the absence of two of whom, satisfactory reasons were assigned.

We have at this meeting the acceptable company of our beloved friend Obadiah Pennington, who produced a satisfactory certificate from Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting held at Lincoln the 30th of 3d month 1855, endorsed by Hardshaugh Quarterly Meeting held the 5th of the 5th month following. We have also the acceptable company of our beloved friend Jonas Bailey, with a satisfactory certificate from the same monthly Meeting held the 4th of 5th month, and endorsed by the same Quarterly Meeting held the 9th of 5th month 1855, all of which express unity with their ministry and present religious prospects

We have also the acceptable company of our beloved friend Ezra Bailey, with a copy of a minute from Shrewsbury Monthly Meeting expressive of unity with his prospect of attending this meeting, and informing that he is an Elder in unity with them.

the Epistle from New York Yearly Meeting of friends held at Poplar Ridge, has been received, and read at this time, to our satisfaction and comfort and Ethan Foster, Thomas B Gould, Valentine Meader, and Francis Baker, are appointed to prepare an essay of an Epistle to that meeting if way should open for it, and produce it at a future sitting.

Rhode Island, & Salem & Dover Quarterly Meetings, acknowledge the reception of extracts from the minutes of this meeting last year, and generally inform, that they have directed their Treasurer, to pay to the Treasurer of this meeting, their proportion of Stock. Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting has also acknowledged the reception of the extract alluded to, and informs, that their proportion of stock, has been paid to our Treasurer.

A proposition was ~~having been~~ introduced to the meeting, to change the time of holding the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers & Elders at Rhode Island, which held at East Greenwich in the 5th month, as expressed in the following extract from the minutes of that meeting contained in the account from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting

Viz Apprehending that convenience and usefulness would result from this meeting commencing at the third hour in the afternoon of the day preceding the general Quarterly Meeting when it is held at East Greenwich, instead of the 11th hour in the morning as heretofore – such of its members as are now present are united in requesting of the Yearly Meeting that this change in the time of holding it may be made and the Clerk is directed to furnish the Quarterly Meeting with a copy of this minute

Thomas B Gould Clerk for the day

Which having been deliberately considered, the change proposed was approved by this, and the women meeting, & the clerk was directed to furnish Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting with a copy of this minute.

, A proposition having also been introduced from Salem & Lower Quarterly Meeting through their request, to change the time of holding that meeting when held at Salem, from the fourth fifth day in the 8th month, to the 5th day preceding the second sixth day in the sixth month at the usual hour, the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers & Elders, being held at the second hour of the day previous; and it appearing that much inconvenience, has been experienced from the present management, the proposition after a time of consideration, was approved, our womens meeting Concurring therein, and the Clerk was directed to furnish that Quarterly Meeting with a Copy of this minute

Valentine Meader and Benj Mitchell are appointed to prepare a Summary of the answers to the queries and produce it at an adjournment of this meeting.

The representatives were requested to confer together at the close of the sitting, and agree upon the name of a friend, to serve this Meeting as clerk & another for assistant clerk

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met pursuant to adjournment.

William Page on behalf of the representatives, reported, that a majority of them had been together and were united in proposing Benj Mitchell for the Clerk of this meeting, and Valentine Meader for assistant; the names were separately considered, the proposition united with, and they were accordingly appointed to those services respectively for the year ensuing.

We have at this meeting the acceptable company of our beloved friend Ruth H Livingston who having produced a satisfactory minute from Chesterfield Monthly Meeting held at Lincoln the 28th of 3d mo last leaving her at liberty to accompany her husband Thos Livingston in his proposed religious visit within the limits of this Yearly Meeting. — We have also the ac-

of our Company of our beloved friend Ruth Ballou with a Satisfaction minute from the same Monthly Meeting held the 4th of 5th month following, expressing unity with her prospect of accompanying ~~Amos Ballou~~ her husband Amos Ballou in his proposed religious visit amongst us, and informing that she is an Elder in unity with them.

He appointed our friends Ethan Foster of Nathan Buffington of Rhode Island, James S. Boyce of Aaron Vanney of Salem Town, and John Folger of Benjamin Tucker of Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, to examine and state the Treasurers account, consider of a sum suitable for this meeting to raise for the ensuing year & to propose a friend for Treasurer.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been introduced and read, were approved, and Francis Baker, William Hill, Israel Buffington, Hannah Chace, Isaac Fisk, Benjamin Tucker, Nathan Page, Valentine Mender and Thomas B Gould, were appointed to consider of and lay before this meeting at a future sitting the names of suitable Friends, to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year

Adjourned to the 11th hour tomorrow morning

3d day morning the 11th Friends again assembled according to adjournment.

The names of the representatives having been called, they were all present but three, for the non attendance of whom, satisfactory reasons had previously been rendered.

The meeting entered upon the consideration of the State of Society by the reading of the Queries with answers thereto, from our several Quarterly Meetings, and the friends appointed yesterday morning to prepare a summary thereof, produced one, which was read & with some alterations directed to be recorded.

Adjourned to the fourth hour in the afternoon. —

Afternoon, Friends again assembled

1855



The committee appointed to examine & settle the Treasurers account, consider of a sum suitable for the meeting to raise, and to propose a person for Treasurer - Have made the following report -

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account, report that they have attended to the appointment, that they find the account to have been carefully kept. They find in the hands of the Treasurer, three hundred and eighteen dollars, ninety six cents, and propose to the Yearly Meeting to raise three hundred dollars for the use of said Meeting the ensuing year, and also have Israel Buffington for Treasurer.

On behalf of the committee
Ethan Foster

Newport 11th of 6th mo 1855

Which was approved, and Israel Buffington was accordingly appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year; and all General Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward to him, their respective proportions of three hundred dollars the sum agreed to be raised; and the Clerk was directed to furnish them with a copy of this minute.

The committee appointed last year to receive subscriptions of Friends, toward purchasing a lot, and building a meeting house at Lynn, have made the following report.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The committee appointed last year to procure subscriptions for the building of a meeting house at Lynn, and to superintend the erection thereof, report as follows

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cost of building | $1200 | paid by Salem Mo Meeting | 265 $ |
| | | do by all others | 776 |
| | | present depending | 159 |
| | | | $1200 |

The committee recommend that the balance, two hundred & fifty nine dollars, be paid by a draft on the Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting

Newport 12th of 6th mo 1855

On behalf of the Committee
Ethan Foster

Which is Satisfactory, and our Treasurer is accordingly authorized to pay for that object the sum of one hundred and fifty nine dollars, the amount reported as being now deficient.

The committee appointed at our sitting yesterday morning, to prepare an essay of an Epistle to New York Yearly Meeting, are also requested if way open for it, to prepare returning minutes for our Friends now in attendance with certificates from abroad.

The Friends appointed yesterday afternoon to consider of and lay before the meeting, a list of the names of suitable friends to compose a meeting for sufferings, have produced the following

1 John Wilbur
2 Peleg Mitchell
3 Nathan Page
4 Othniel Foster
5 Thomas B Gould
6 Benjamin Gardner
7 Dr Harvey Chace
8 Thomas K Wilbur
9 Israel Buffington
10 Charles Perry
11 George F Reed
12 Thomas Wilbur
13 John F Kenyon
14 Wetham B Oliver
15 William Hill
16 Benjamin Tucker
17 Stephen Swift
18 George M Eddy
19 Samuel B Chace
20 Ethan Foster
21 Francis Jaber
22 George C Kenyon
23 James Austin
24 Nathan Buffington
25 Aaron Varney
26 Asher Chace
27 Amos C Wilbur
28 Thomas Foster
29 Pelatiah Hussey
30 Valentine Meader

Which after a time of consideration was approved, and the Friends named were accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensueing year

Adiourned to the second hour tomorrow afternoon

4th day afternoon the 13th met pursuant to adiournment

The names of the representatives ~~being called~~ having been called, they were present as at our sitting yesterday morning.

The Committee appointed at our first sitting, to prepare an essay of an Epistle to New York Yearly Meeting of Friends, having produced one, it was read & approved by the meeting, and the Clerk was directed to sign and forward it. They have also produced as requested the following minutes of unity, with the Company and Gospel labours of our Friends Chace Pennington and Ezra Batty, which have been approved, & the Clerk was directed to sign them on behalf of the meeting

To Starkeborough Monthly Meeting and Ferrisburgh Quarterly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends, Our Beloved Friend Chase Pennington in the performance of his religious visit within the limits of this Yearly Meeting, as expressed in a Certificate granted him by Starkeborough Monthly Meeting held on the 30th of 3d mo last, and endorsed by Ferrisburgh Quarterly Meeting held the 9th of the 3d month following, both expressive of their unity with his ministry and of their unity with him, in his present religious engagement, attended the several sittings of this meeting. His Company, Solid deportment and Gospel labours have been to our comfort & edification.

To Starksborough Monthly and Ferrisburgh Quarterly Meeting of Friends.

Dear Friends Our Beloved Friend Ezra Batty in the performance of his religious visit within the limits of this Yearly Meeting, as expressed in a certificate granted him by Starkeborough Monthly Meeting held 4th of 5. mo last, and endorsed by Ferrisburgh Quarterly Meeting held 9th of the same, both expressive of their unity with his ministry him as a minister, and also with their unity with him in present religious engagement, attended the several sittings of this meeting. His Company, Solid deportment and Gospel labours have been to our comfort and edification.

The following Satisfactory minute on behalf of our friend Ezra Batty, was also presented by the same Committee, expressing unity with his Company & Solid deportment & which was also directed to be signed by the Clerk.

To Shackamaxon Monthly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends

Our beloved Friend Ezra Batty attended this meeting with a copy of a minute from your Monthly Meeting held 4th of 5th month last, expressive of unity with him in his prospect of attending this meeting, His company and labor of Love have been satisfactory to us.

The clerk and assistant clerk having been requested to prepare a more extended minute, in relation to the state of Society, and the exercises of the meeting, if way should open for it, they have at this time produced the following, which having been read, after a time of weighty consideration was approved and copies thereof directed to be forwarded to our subordinate meetings.

The meeting was deeply exercised under a painful sense of the many weaknesses and deficiencies existing within our borders, and the truly living and rightly exercised members were brought to feel that there is still much amongst us that calls for close searching of heart.

Powerful and living testimonies were borne to the necessity there is for some, making profession with us, to arise and shake themselves as from the dust of the Earth, to watch even unto prayer, that so they may be preserved from the many snares of the Enemy with which we are continually surrounded and come more fully to realize the necessity of keeping a single eye unto him ~~for ability and strength~~ who hath called us with an high and holy calling, and who, as we look unto him for ability and strength, will enable us to overcome the world, to resist the many temptations of the adversary, and finally, as patience is abode in, make us more than Conquerors through him.

We have indeed been made clearly to realize that the mercies of the Lord have been largely extended unto us— a people whom he had designed for his praise and to exalt his standard of Truth & Righteousness in

1855 in the earth, and for whom way has been made that they might grow and flourish, even as plants of his own right hand planting, but some of whom, through unwatchfulness and indifference have suffered themselves to be drawn aside from the right way, thereby bringing reproach upon the blessed Cause of Truth and mourning over the spirits of the living and rightly exercised members, so that some of these have been ready to exclaim "'Tis of the Lords mercies that we are not consumed" because his compassions fail not." And the language of the Spirit unto the Churches hath seemed to be "What could have "been done more to my vineyard that I have "I have not done in it? Wherefore, when I looked "that it should bring forth grapes, brought it "forth wild grapes.

Friends were feelingly exhorted to be more faithful in the maintenance of our Christian testimonies, that by an humble and consistent walking in all things they might witness a growth in grace, and in the knowledge of the Truth. They were earnestly reminded of the importance of a diligent attendance of all our meetings for religious worship and discipline, and encouraged to greater faithfulness therein. "Not forsaking the assembling "ourselves together as the manner of some is, but "exhorting one another

Much weighty Counsel and affectionate advice was called forth in view of the many deficiencies sorrowfully apparent in the answer to the query in regard to sleeping in our religious meetings, and the mournful language of our blessed Lord to Peter in the garden of Gethsemane was feelingly adverted to. "What could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation." And living desires were raised and expressed that all our members whether present or absent, who have thus brought sorrow upon

the Church, might seek for help to overcome this prevalent weakness, that by continued watchfulness, the designs of the Enemy may be defeated and we may become more firmly knitt up and established on the alone sure foundation; and that all might be made willing to search Jerusalem as with a lighted candle, that every thing that can hurt or lay waste, may be removed from amongst us, and our light be made so to shine amongst men, that others seeing our good works may come to glorify our father who is in Heaven.

Copies of minutes on behalf of our Friends Ruth H Pennington and Ruth Batty, having been prepared, by the women Meeting and read in this were satisfactory, and the Clerk is directed to sign them on our behalf.

The clerk is directed to make such ~~Insertions~~ necessary Extracts from our minutes as are not already provided for and sign them on our behalf

During the several sittings of this meeting we have been made renewedly to feel an entire inability of ourselves, rightly to transact the weighty affairs of the Church, and although under a sense of great weakness, a measure of that help, which can alone qualify for such service, has been mercifully vouchsafed, by which we have been enabled to accomplish the business brought before us in brotherly love and condescension; under an humbling and solemnizing sense thereof we conclude, purposing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year if consistent with the Divine will.

Peleg Mitchell Clerk

1855



Summary Answers 6mo 1855

1st All our meetings for worship & discipline have been attended, with the exception of one for worship, and also one Preparative Meeting which in Consequence of sickness was attended by only one member— Those on fast day and Some for discipline appear to have been attended by the greater part of our members, while others for discipline and mid week meetings are more neglected by Some. The hour is well observed by most. Mostly clear of unbecoming behaviour, a few instances of sleeping except at two of our Quarterly Meetings report that Care has been taken in Some of the above deficiencies

2d Love and Unity, are in a good degree maintained by most friends, and detraction must be guarded against. When differences have arisen endeavours have been used to end them

3d A Concern rests on the minds of most friends to bring up those under their direction in plainness according to the query, to restrain them from reading pernicious books and from the Corrupt Conversation of the world, these are good examples herein themselves, while Some it appears are not sufficiently alive to the importance of these testimonies. The Holy Scriptures appear to be frequently read in most friends families.

4th Friends are Careful to confine the use of Spirituous liquors to medicinal purposes The unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort, mostly avoided, moderation and Temperance appear to be observed on the occasions referred to.

5th The circumstances of the poor appear to have been duly attended to, and relief applauded when necessary. Friends Children partake of learning

to fit them for business, none are reported as placed out from among Friends

6th Parents and Heads of Families, with the young and unmarried appear to be mostly careful that all proceedings with respect to marriage should be conformable to our discipline. Yet by some our testimony in this respect has not been maintained

7th Friends appear to be mostly careful to maintain the several important testimonies refered to in this query.

8th Friend appear to be generally careful to inspect their affair & settle their accounts, also to be punctual to their promise, and just in the payment of their debts & to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

9th It appears that marriages are all recorded births and deaths mostly, several removals are reported without certificates, some of which are under notice.

10th A good degree of care appears to be taken to deal with offenders according to the Query yet some instances of delay in timely dealing are reported in one account. Care also appears to have been taken to place judgment in the authority of Truth according to our discipline.

, Yearly , Meeting of , Friends for New England, held on Rhode , Island, Commencing with Public Meetings for worship at , Newport on first day the 15th of 6th mo 1856 and on Second day morning the 16th of the same for Discipline

. Accounts having been received from our several Quarterly Meetings as heretofore, it appears the following Friends have been appointed to attend this meeting as Representatives

From Rhode Island Obmit Foster, Thomas Wilbur, Levi Chace, Hannah Chace, , Isaac Burgess, William Hill, John Hoxie of Warwick, Charles Carr, Salem , Dover , Nathan Page, Timothy Varney, George H Read , Valentine Meader, Jeremiah Peleg Mitchell, Francis Taber, Thomas H Wilbur, George H Eddy, Benjamin Gardner, James Austin, no other names being called, they were all present and answered thereto.

Our several Quarterly Meetings acknowledge the reception of Extracts from the minutes of this meeting last year and inform that they have directed their respective proportions of Stock to be paid to our Treasurer.

We have in the attendance of this meeting the acceptable company of our beloved Friends Joseph Hoag and David Heston &c. the former with a Satisfactory Certificate from Nine Months Meeting of Friends held 3d mo 12th 1856 from their Quarterly Meeting held at Hector the 20th of the 2d mo following, and Hilath with a Satisfactory Certificate from Pattingham , Fell Britain. mo Meeting of Friends held at Pattingham in Cecil County & of Maryland the 8th of 2d mo last from Pattingham Quarterly Meeting held at Deer Creek in Harford County in the same State , the 15 of the same month, all of which express unity with their ministry and present religious engagements.

We have also the acceptable company of our beloved friend William Waring Companion to our

Friend David Heston Jr, with a Satisfactory Certificate from Pattingham & Little Britain Mo. Meeting held at Pattingham the 11th of 4th Mo. last, by reason with his Request of accompanying him on his Journey to Virginia with a View that he is an Elder in unity with them.

We have also at this meeting the acceptable company of our beloved Friend Judith Talbot with a Satisfactory Certificate from Hector Monthly Meeting of Friends held the 12th of 3d Mo. last: and from Bucks Quarterly Meeting held at Hector the 30th of same Month following, both of them express unity with her Ministry and present Religious engagements.

The company of our beloved Friend Sarah B Bowerman, Companion to our Friend Judith Talbot with a Satisfactory Certificate from the same Monthly Meeting expressive of unity with her accompanying her & that She is in Love & unity with them, is acceptable to us.

Epistles from our endeared Friends of New York Yearly Meeting held at Duanes Ridge and from Baltimore Yearly Meeting held at Pattingham, have been received and read at this time to our Satisfaction and Comfort, and the Epistle from Friend Ethan Foster, Thomas Kerr, Francis Race, George Mead, John Paddock, Thomas Wilbur, William Hill, James Austin, William Page, Valentine Shrader, and Caleb Cadle to prepare essays of Epistles to them Meetings; they Should open for it, and produce them at a future sitting.

The appointed Friends Elias Hicks and Thomas Kerr of Rhode Island, James Boyce and David Sutton of Salem and Caleb and Thomas Wilbur, James Cornell from Scipio Duanes Meeting, to prepare and settle the Yearly accounts; conclude to meet them for the meeting's Service and a Friend to procure as Assistant; and to sit Thursday at 9 o'clock in the forenoon next sitting.

Ezekiel Valentine Shrader are appointed to prepare a Statement of the answers to the Queries that have been received at this time and introduce it at the next sitting.

The representatives are requested to Convene together at the close of this sitting, and Consider of the names of suitable Friends to attend this meeting as Clerk and assistant, for the year ensuing.

Afternoon, met pursuant to adjournment

Brother Brown on behalf of the Committee reported that they had mostly been together and were united in sentiment. The Minutes of the last meeting and Visiting Appointments were read, and the names with the amount of Quarterage paid by each member were called over and the Stewards appointed to their services respectively for the year ensuing.

The State of Society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries with answers thereto from the several Quarterly Meetings, and the Friend appointed to [illegible] thereof produced one which was read and is directed to be placed on record. The diligence in attending [illegible] the attendance of the religious meetings and a declension, which was reported as prevailing therein, were seriously alluded to, and tender and affectionate counsel administered. Friends were cautioned against an indulgence in that kind of reading, which would be likely to lower the standard of Truth in themselves and lead into weakness; and the subject of exercising a care in relation to such as might in this manner, but which if too eagerly engaged in, would have a tendency to engross the mind and that silent and reverent waiting upon the Lord, whereby our spiritual strength might be renewed, was also brought impressively and affectionately before us.

Adjourned to meet 10th hour tomorrow morning

Third day morning the 5th without the limits of

The names of the Representatives being called they were all present.

In consequence of changes within the limits of our respective Quarterly Meetings, in relation to their boundary interest, the subject has been introduced to the notice of this meeting, and it appearing that a new apportionment of Stock may be necessary, the appointment of Friends thereto

Burlington, Charles Berry, Rainey Chace, Levi Chace, [illegible], [illegible] Folger, Lancis Baker, Isaac Penney and David Buffum to take it into consideration & make such disposition for a new appointment, as they may consider necessary at a future sitting.

The Records of the Meeting, for Sufferings for the last year, were [illegible] and after a Time of consideration were approved by the meeting, and we appoint our Friends Charles Berry, Ethan Foster, Phillip Sisson, William Hill [illegible], Lemuel Gardner, [illegible] Sinton, Nathan Sage and Isaac Lawry to consider of and lay before the meeting at a future Sitting a list of the names of suitable Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

A memorial concerning our late [illegible] and Minister of the Gospel

produced to the meeting, & the Shutter thereof having been raised, it was read in the presence of this and the [illegible] meeting, and fully approved by us, & directed to be placed on record. During the reading and subsequently thereto, great solemnity [illegible] over the meeting, under which many minds were also [illegible] among us, as the declaration in the power and authority of Truth.

[illegible] approved and pursuant to [illegible]

2. The Committee appointed this [illegible] to take into view the subject of a new appointment of [illegible] report.

3. The Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the subject of a new appointment of Stock between our several Quarterly [illegible] do [illegible] as follows

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting 45 in all

1856
June



Sandwich Quarterly Meeting to be held
Salem & Dover Quarterly Meeting 15th " "

Newport June 1st 1856 } On behalf of the Committee
Israel Buffington

Which was read and approved and the Committee
joined by the meeting.

The Committee appointed to settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes
have made the following report.

At a Yearly Meeting now Sitting

The Committee appointed to settle the Treasurers
account and for other purposes. Report that they
have attended to that service and find a balance
in the Treasurers hands of $34.12 cts. They
propose that three hundred dollars be raised
for the use of the meeting for the ensuing year,
and that Israel Buffington be reappointed Treas-
urer. Newport June 1st 1856 } On behalf of the Committee
Charles Perry

Which was read and approved and Israel
Buffington is accordingly appointed Treasurer for
the ensuing year and the several Quarterly
Meetings are requested to forward to him their
respective proportion of 300 dollars, the Sum
now raised to be raised, and the Letter is directed
to [illegible] with a copy of this minute

The subject of publishing the memorial [illegible]
was read and approved at an Sitting this morning
having obtained the weight & consideration of the meet-
ing it is the judgment that it would not [illegible]
thereto & also such others as have not been [illegible]
Subscribers, and then as according, record to the
Meeting for Sufferings, which is directed to take the
subject under its care and attend to the publication as
may, may open, and draw on the Treasurer of this meet-
ing for the amount required

The Friends appointed yesterday morning to pre-
pare [illegible] an Epistle, one of the [illegible]
for it to present [illegible] of returning [illegible]
have also our friends here [illegible] with us with the

Certificate from Meetings within its limits &
&c Meetings

Adjourned to the eleventh hour tomorrow morning. ——

Fourth day morning the 18th. met according to adjournment

The names of the representatives being called they were all present and answered thereto

The committee appointed to Examine the Meeting for Sufferings, have produced the following Viz

Silas Mitchell, Nathan Pope, Samuel Emlen, Phineas Pemberton, William Hall, Benjamin Crosdale, Samuel Morris, Isaac Hopper, Benjamin Hallowell, Samuel Dennis, Samuel Allen, William Stockton, Samuel Wetherill, John Hough, Phillip Price, George Dudley, Thomas Thompson, Isaac Parrish, George Truman, Stephen Grellet, Miller Chace Valentine Hollister, Charles Perry & Levi Chace.

Which after a time of consideration were approved and they were accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing.

An extract of an Epistle to a New York Yearly Meeting of Friends, [illegible]

The Committee [illegible] day morning, to be read, and after being deliberately considered was approved, and the Clerk is directed to sign and forward it.

Adjourned to the third hour this afternoon

Afternoon met pursuant to adjournment

An Essay of an Epistle to Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends was now laid before the Meeting, and being read and duly considered was approved and the Clerk is directed to sign and forward it

The following minutes on account of our Friends from within the limits of New York and Baltimore Yearly meetings having been read were approved, and the Clerk is directed to sign an Extract.

At Hector Monthly & Elkpee Quarterly Meeting of Friends — Our beloved Friend Joseph Hoag has been in attendance during the several sittings of this meeting in the performance of his religious visit, as expressed in a certificate

granted him by their Monthly Meeting held
the 12th of 5mo 1856, and endorsed by Leipsic Month=
ly Meeting held at Hector the 3rd of 6mo following,
both expressive of their unity with him as a
minister, and in his present labours performing a religious
visit amongst us, his company, solid deportment and Gospel labours
were edifying, consolatory and comforting.

2d Nottingham and Little Britain Month
ly Meeting, and Nottingham Quarterly Meeting
of Friends — Our beloved friend David Heston
has been in attendance during the several sittings
of this meeting, in the performance of his religious
visit within the limits of this and some other
Yearly Meetings as expressed in a certificate
granted him by Nottingham and Little Britain
Monthly Meeting held at Nottingham in Lan=
caster County the 10th day of the 3rd month 1856
[illegible] Yearly Meeting held in
Chester County the 15th of the
same month, unity with him
as a minister, and with his present religious
engagements, and setting him at liberty to
pursue his prospect as best wisdom may direct,
his company, solid deportment and Gospel
labours were acceptable and edifying
to us

1st Nottingham and Little Britain Month
ly Meeting of Friends

Our beloved friend William Maring
has attended the several sittings of this Meeting
with a minute from [illegible] Monthly
[illegible] Yearly Meeting held the 11th of 4th mo 1856 in favour that he
is an Elder approved and leaving him at
liberty to attend to his prospect of accompany=
ing our friend David Heston in pursuit
of his concerned religious visit. His com=
pany, solid deportment and labours for the
truth, have been acceptable and edifying
to us

on behalf of our friends Lydia Hallock & her Companion Sarah B Bowerman, have been read and being approved of, the Clerk is directed to sign them on our behalf in connexion with the Clerk of that meeting.

The Clerk is directed to make such reasonable allowance from our monies as have not been already provided for to sign them on our behalf.

1st Having been favoured during the several sittings of this meeting & [illegible] (waived down under a sense of our own weakness) the good presence of the master our Holy Head, that [illegible] of his love & power [illegible] extended to us, whereby we have been enabled in meekness & condescension to bring the important business, which has claimed our attention, to a [illegible] & comfortable issue, [illegible] on this Island if consistent with the Divine will at the usual time next year.

Phebe Mitchell Clerk

Summary Answers

Answers

All our meetings for worship & discipline have been attended, & our appointed meeting — and a few meetings for worship, which have not been sustained as [illegible] of the meeting & since [illegible] the decease of the [illegible] have been held days by the greater part of our members who are able to attend. Said week meetings and those for Discipline continue to be regarded by a few, on account of which some Care has been taken. The time is mostly spent by most. In unbecoming behaviour reported, a few instances of sleeping excepted.

Ans 2

Love and unity generally maintained & true tenderness watched against, and when differences have arisen, Endeavours have been used to end them.

1856
Ans 3d

3d Queries. Do Friends maintain their testimonies against the Fashions of the World, in Plainness of Speech, Behaviour and Apparel?

Answered generally in the affirmative, but it is feared that in some places there is a departure from the Simplicity of Truth in these respects. Friends are advised to be careful to avoid every appearance of Evil, and to dress in a manner consistent with our Profession. The Holy Scriptures appear to be frequently read in private families.

Ans 4th

4th Queries. Do Friends observe the Advices relative to the Manufacture and Use of Spirituous Liquors for medicinal purposes, with the exception which is under notice, and to avoid the unnecessary frequenting of Taverns and other places of public resort, with a few exceptions in one Quarterly Meeting. Moderation & temperance appear to be observed in the occasions required to.

Ans 5th

5th Queries. Are Friends careful to bring up their children in the plain habit of Truth, and their necessities relieved. Are their children partakers of Learning to fit them for Usefulness. [illegible] observed.

Ans 6th

6th Queries. Are Parents and Heads of families careful that all proceedings with regard to marriage be conformable to our Discipline, and the Care of the young and unmarried are watchfully attended to by the [illegible] of their Testimony. One instance of marrying out is reported.

Ans 7th

7th Queries. Are Friends careful to maintain our Testimonies in the several particulars of this query. One exception is made in the account of a few, who at times attend meetings where [illegible].

Ans 8th

8th Queries. Are Friends careful to observe their Obligations to the Truth in their Promises and Conversation. That is their Promises and just in the payment of their Debts. One exception mentioned in one account and to be careful to live within the bounds of their Circumstances.

Ans 9th

9th Queries. Due care is taken with regard to Records, three instances of removal without certificate, two of which are under notice.

a good degree of care appears to rest with friends to deal with offenders as occasion may require and to bring judgment in the authority of truth according to ~~Holding~~ Discipline.

## Memorial.

Testimony of Rhode Island Monthly Meeting of Friends, Concerning Thomas B Gould deceased.

We under an humbling and solemnizing sense of the loss sustained by the Church in the removal from works to rewards of our dear friend Thomas B Gould, that we feel engaged to record a brief sketch of his Christian character, with some of his memorable expressions near the close of life, for the benefit of survivors, that they may be encouraged to give early and continued assent to the operations of Divine grace in the heart; and thereby become prepared to follow him as he followed Christ.

He was the son of Henry and Abigail Gould of Newport, R. I. and was born at that place on the 22d day of eighth month, 1793. He was naturally of a slender constitution and subject to frequent bodily illness. He was a thoughtful child, and evidently sometimes from very early life, manifested seriousness of mind. It has been heard to say in maturer years that he did not remember the time when he had no religious impressions. As an evidence of the regard he early felt to the Divine admonition in the heart, however, the following incident may be mentioned. At a time when he was quite young, military displays were often made at some little distance from his father's house, and he felt a strong desire to go and see them. One day, seeing a number of his young friends going to the grounds, the temptation to go became very strong and he followed them without the knowledge of his parents, to whom he knew it would displease them. As he walked on in the midst of his little companions, a solemn awe began to overspread his mind, which as he proceeded became more

1876

[illegible] impressions until at length he could discern
[illegible] coming back, which he did, without
ever desiring to go to such places. When but seven
or eight years of age, his father, who was a miller
[illegible] office of sending him about the town to
supply his numerous customers, in which vocation he
won the attachment and affection of the towns people
almost without exception, being of a kind obli-
ging disposition, respectful & upright and honest in his
dealings, and his conversation with them generally
of a serious or religious cast. When about twelve
years of age he was brought so low by a severe
attack of sickness that his life was despaired of.
After his recovery from this illness his religious
impressions appear to have deepened and his
experience to have refined in a remarkable manner
for one so young. About this time he commenced
keeping a written account of his feelings & exercises,
with incidents of visits & from time to time in the
ministry, as well as of others; and continued in
the practice for some years — but subsequently
destroyed most of his production in this line, as
it would appear from an humble opinion of him-
self; and in after life said he did not think it
required of him to keep a journal.

The following was written during the
sickness above alluded to.

"Oh, how sure is the track of Tyger, and how
unlike is Satan, the grand adversary, who defiles
[illegible] every thing he entereth into. But the work
[illegible] is pure, [illegible] influences and by his spirit to save and
serve Him. "My desires are at times very strong
to be enabled to distinguish, between the voice
of Satan and the Voice of the King of Heaven, as
also when the voice of the true spirit is distin-
guished, that I may be enabled to be obedient
thereto."

"In the early part of his life he often went from
[illegible] to [illegible] and to remain
[illegible] from a sense of
religious duty, and his openings for this latter
[illegible] and

was favoured on such occasions not only to relieve his own mind, but generally to leave a lasting impression for good on the minds of those with whom such interviews were sought.

The following extracts from some other papers which were found after his decease serve still further to exhibit the state of his mind. Though generally without date some of them were evidently written in early life.

"'Another year has passed over my head, and oh! to remember the forbearance and love of Divine Goodness, unmerited kindness and unbounded mercy that has surrounded me, that the Lord would be pleased to spare me a little longer, that I may be more watchful, more careful to mind the dictates of his unerring principle within.'"

"On looking over some memorandums this evening, made in the 12th year of my age, my spirit feels much prostrated in consideration of the tender mercy and condescension of Almighty Goodness in that he was pleased in that season of childhood to touch my heart with a sense, a deep and spiritual sense, of my sinfulness and nakedness; and also of the means by which purity and holiness of life and conversation might be attained, through which alone a communion into a similitude and oneness of Divine nature might be known and witnessed even in this mortal body; and since then the vessel has been broken and spoiled; and the precious treasure suffered to escape, by which (if retained) the vessel might have been preserved in innocence and purity. Oh! I doubt beyond all doubt with me that nothing short of a measure and manifestation of Divine grace inwardly and spiritually communicated, once could have conveyed that sense of Divine truth which I was then favoured with, and such conformity to and uniformity with scripture terms and doctrine. Well, if this is the case, and that communication has been interrupted, how necessary that the old paths should be diligently sought. Where is the old way, for truly I am in a way which neither myself nor any gathering in the truth heretofore walked in. Oh! Thou who art the leader of Israel, and the opener of gates for the same to walk in, will Thou be pleased once more to stretch my feet out of the mire and the clay and to set them upon that Rock against which as an established foundation the gates of hell

would never be able to praise. Here, Oh Here, I have once been favoured to hear his voice, and to meditate on his law with great delight. Shall I again be favoured to have my dwelling and on my oath, thus, or my law, would that he enabled to persue thy course with a perfect, and that true acknowledgement would be known, which would be a source of comfort unto thee in this life, and would prepare thee for Celestial enjoyment when time shall be no more".

"Divine worship, I believe consists in a patient waiting to know, and a faithful and diligent engagement to do the will of our Heavenly Father;—but how hard have I often found it to be so divested of active self as to get into that true silence, humility and lowliness of mind where we can stand perfectly still, so as to gain any dependence on, or attention to any other than the great object of our adoration and praise. Nevertheless, I have at times been made sensible to my humbling admiration of the glory of the Lord descending & filling the outward temple, so that there was no place for, nor any disposition to engage in any official duties, but only to stand quite still and behold the great glory and magnificence of the Shepherd of Israel."

"It has been clearly manifested to me, that conscience is no proper rule and guide which the Almighty in his infinite wisdom and goodness has provided for the regulation of the actions of his creature man; because conscience, like reason being a natural gift, may when unenlightened become debauched and identified with an evil propensities. But that the Holy Spirit of Christ, which we promised we were to send in his name (which is often put for his power) is the guide & rule by which our conduct is to be regulated; for though in us it is not of us, but is a most precious gift, even the same rock that followed Israel and that rock was Christ. This can never be found, but as minded & submitted to in its gentle movings & leadings would subdue and overcome all that the Lord's controversy is against, and would gain for us an admittance into that City the walls whereof are salvation and whose gates praise, it being the forerunner of that

most solemn injunction sacrificing at [illegible] mount, whereon he
made an atonement for sin, rejected them that are sanctified, and cut-
up a way for the ransomed and redeemed of the Lord to
pass God to walk in, which although an exalted situation,
and one that of ourselves we are wholly incapable of ob-
taining unto, yet it is so plain and so simple that the way-
faring man though a fool as to the things of this world
may not err therein. Well may we exclaim great is the
mystery of Godliness' 1856

These extracts selected from others of a like
nature serve to show the state of his mind in the ear-
lier part of his life. He was fully convinced of the prin-
ciples which he now professed, and grew in
experimental knowledge of them and of his accordance
with the New Testament, even from early life.
insomuch that he would sometimes explain certain
important points of doctrine with great clearness at
the age of eighteen years. His love for these pure
principles of truth continued to increase as he ad-
vanced in years; and when reproaches came to be
made upon them by Elias Hicks and his followers,
though then young, he stood firmly and stood
earth valiantly against it; and when errors were known
in on the other hand by J. J. Gurney and others, he
was favoured to see their dangerous tendency with
great clearness, and to labour with industry and
zeal for their removal. His objection to these errors
was well known, and J. J. Gurney soon after his
arrival in New England sought an interview with
him in which he endeavoured to induce him to
relinquish these well founded objections — but
Thomas stood faithful and unmoved, fully ex-
pressing the uneasiness he had long felt with his
doctrinal writings, shewing him their inconsisten
cy with those of our early Friends, and the neces-
sity of his retracting and condemning some portions of
them so as to relieve the mind of those friends who
were disturbed on this account, and often his
way amongst them. Although the interview re-
sulted in no satisfaction further than the relief of
his own mind, he faithfully believing that God
long rested upon it, yet he deemed this an ample
reward for unreserved obedience to the Divine
requirings in this particular, for truth is the lover
of the brave. He in whom it is found confidence

1856



was granted to the same individual by Yearly
Yearly Meeting, through the instrumentality of those
who were [illegible] and to favour his unsanctified views,
our dear friend was one of the few who faithfully
raised his voice against it, expressing his fear for
the consequence of such a step.

Having long been under the qualifying hand
of the Master, and having learned not
only to hear his voice, but to distinguish it from the
voice of the stranger, he became inclined to proclaim
the glad tidings of the Gospel of peace and salvation, to
which service he was called in the 24th year of his
age. His appearances in the Ministry being in the life
and power of truth, were satisfactory to all sound and
faithful Friends, and he was encouraged to attend faithfully
to the gift he had received, and was acknowledged
as a minister in the year 1845

In his public testimony he was clear and pertinent, waiting for the right ability, and there was
with him a fullness of expression and deliberation of
manner, which was truly interesting and convincing.
He was sound in the Scriptural doctrine of the means
of the means of salvation by our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ, both as to his Pre-existent Divine nature
flesh, wherein He tasted death for every man, and
became a propitiation for the sins of the whole
world; and also in regard to the no less essential office of His inward and Spiritual appearance in the
heart of man, as a refiner with fire and a
fuller with soap, whereby through a submission to
the purifying operation of His Spirit, we are made
to be sanctified, we are justified. Whilst he had
full faith in the propitiatory sacrifice of Christ,
he maintained that it only becomes available
through unfeigned repentance for past sins, and an
unreserved reliance on Him in his spiritual appearance and interbastion as a sure helper
and deliverer from the bondage of sin, by whom
as He is put confidence to be yielded unto Him, the
work of sanctification the work of sanctification
is carried on and perfected.

His faithful testimony against the bad views
of J. J. Gurney and others in favor the pure ancient
doctrine of Friends, brought upon him the censure and

Condemnation of many accepting prominent Friends in the Yearly Meeting, who had so far deviated from the Truth as given way to weakness, as to favour and cause this unsound author in his progress through our borders, and to join in an effort to silence and put down all objection to him and his doctrines. He mistook himself the clear Scriptural consequent upon his faithfulness for the Testimony of Truth, although firm and unyielding in support of it, yet he evinced much patience and gentleness, feeling that he was one of those to whom it was given on the behalf of Christ not only to believe on him but also to suffer for his sake. He was diligent in the attendance of our religious meetings and his ministry there was very impressive, and evinced his dedication to the cause of Truth and Righteousness. He manifested great concern for such as he believed were honest hearted but who were led through the influence of others into the support of wrong principles, and was ever ready as way opened for it to speak and live spent for the good of such.

After the separation in this Yearly Meeting he was in the practice of frequently attending the different monthly and Quarterly Meetings within its limits, many times when in a feeble state of health. These visits in Gospel love were greatly to the comfort and edification of Friends, and were the means of uniting him very closely to them.

For a considerable time he had been strongly impressed with a sense of religious duty constraining him to visit Friends in the love of the unchangeable Truth, within the limits of several of the Yearly Meetings in this Country, but trying and painful was the prospect, in the unsettled and degenerate condition of the Society, that he yielded to discouragement, remaining at home for a length of time, and making no mention of this requirement to his friends. During this period, in the winter of 1853—4 he was brought very low by sickness so that for a time his recovery appeared doubtful; and he then felt the weight of this service increasingly upon him, and the necessity, if it should please his heavenly

Father to train him up again, no longer to pass some
a faithful performance of the required duty in the
ability which should be afforded him.

Accordingly, in the summer of 1854,
having measurably recovered his health, he obtained
a minute from his Monthly and Quarterly Meeting
to visit Friends in some of the New York, Philadelphia, Ohio and Baltimore Yearly Meetings, one
being provided with a suitable companion to join
after he set out on this journey, in which he was engaged
for several months. Having completed his labors
in Philadelphia, Ohio and Baltimore Yearly Meetings, he returned home where he spent the winter,
during much of which he was confined to his room
by sickness, but was so far restored as to be able in the
ensuing spring to visit the meetings he had in prospect within the limits of New York, and attended
the Yearly Meeting held at Poplar Ridge, before he
returned home. His company and religious services wherever he went in this arduous engagement
seem to have been grateful to the humble and sympathizing
portion of the church with whom he came. He was remarkably
sustained and supported amid the various trials and exercises which fell to his lot, and enabled to declare the
unsearchable riches of Christ in demonstration of Spirit
and of power; and sometimes when a very mixed company attended his meetings consisting in part of some
who were alienated from the Society in the Hicksite
separation, and some who on the other hand have gone
too far [illegible] came with a feeling of opposition, he was greatly favoured
and drawn forth toward them in faithful pleading for
the truth's sake, the cause of it, so that much tenderness prevailed and
many tears were shed on some such occasions. On one
occasion his exercise in [illegible] was
[illegible] expressed satisfaction and peace in the Gospel ministry and
when expressed himself fully convinced and comforted therein during his last visit.

[illegible] a letter to a friend dated a little [illegible]
[illegible] written [illegible] he said, "I have

[illegible] remarked that I should never live to an old age,
[illegible] that neither medicine or much
[illegible] exercise agreed with me. Does your master
know how he is to recommence without becoming ill?"
On several occasions afterwards he remarked to me
privately that his work might keep pace with the day.

After his return from this visit he continued
mostly at home in the enjoyment of usual health until
the latter part of last month 1856, when he had a severe
attack of asthma (having long been subject to bilious
[illegible] by which proved too much for his
[illegible] attack about three weeks.

During the first week of his illness he appeared to be very thoughtful and engaged a great part of the time in meditation, without much expression; but one morning about the beginning of the second week he broke forth in a remarkable manner and seemed unable to express the fulness of his joy. "Oh!" he exclaimed "the sentiment
[illegible]
"[illegible] all in mercy; I have to bless Him through a multiplicity of [illegible], or, no! all that I could do was to throw myself at Jesus' feet; and at the same time remember, that nothing of mine was blessed to [illegible] the ailment
[illegible]
[illegible] I have been aware of my

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Cuba

[illegible] the restoration of Israel, and said, "Since I
can truly say, not my will, but thine, O Lord, be done"
[illegible] I am willing to wait the accomplishment
of your declared purposes, whatever they
may require of him, if I can but
be among the number of those who
[illegible] the righteous nation which keepeth the truth
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

could not be understood, [illegible]

and he desired to return home as [illegible]

with the several times in the course of the [illegible]

of the passage "affectionately pray to Heaven to [illegible]

to conduct him safe, and [illegible]

as near another effort, and that if agreeable, [illegible]

...

he [illegible] understood with great readiness, and [illegible]

to [illegible] look, and to give notice before the [illegible]

which was agreed to, and [illegible] [illegible]

and [illegible] [illegible], there was never [illegible]

[illegible], he paid and he rejoiced [illegible]

The procession [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]

[illegible], more [illegible] [illegible]

recalled; and here was often a [illegible]

ing in his expression and manner, in [illegible]

with his language which, [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

Salem County Quarterly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Salem Island commenced their public meetings for worship at Pittsgrove on first day the 11th of 6m 1757 and ended on the same the 15th of the same for discipline

53 accounts received from our several Quarterly Meetings as Rancocas, Chesterfield Evesham named friends have been appointed to attend this meeting as representatives Abner Woods, Grant, Willis Haste, Israel Burlington, Samuel Foster, Charles Perry, Henry Shinn, Levi Shinn, Joseph Scattergood, Ethan Foster, John Cooper, Jonathan Scattergood, Isaac Sharp, Nathan Price, Aaron Burney, George Read, William Matlack, Valentine Hunter, from Sandwich Benjamin Gardner, John Scantle, Francis Chester Hopkins, Benjamin Tucker, Stephen Swift, whose names being called they were all present but two, for the absence of whom a satisfactory reason was offered.

Our several Quarterly Meetings acknowledge the reception of Extracts from the minutes of this meeting last year, and which informs Sister Cooper informs that they have directed their proportion of Stock to be paid to the Treasurer of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting informs that their proportion of Stock has been paid, and they united in Rancocas Monthly Meeting in the same and in disapproving the public appearance in the ministry of Christopher Evans

We have in the attendance of this meeting the acceptable company of our beloved friend Samuel Emlen, with whom we have had a comfortable time of Sandwich Monthly Meeting of Friends held on Grand Isle the 2nd of the last, endorsed [illegible] by Providence Quarterly Meeting held at Smithfield the 8th of the same month & present with us at this time

We have also the acceptable company of our friend Samuel Emlen Knowles with a

Satisfactory certificate from Town Clerk of Freeman elected
and on Friend the 2nd of 8th mo last entered in
Herrenberg Quarterly Meeting held at [illegible]

[illegible]

Epistle from and entered minutes of New
York Yearly Meeting now met at Hester Ridge &
from Baltimore Yearly Meeting held at Nottingham
have been received and read & are satisfactory &
comfort and the appointed are Friends Charles Stores
Geo. Dillard, Ethan Foster, Isby Mitchell, Valentine
Meader, & Israel Buffington, William Hill & Francis
Lowe to prepare essays of Epistles to those Yearly Meet-
ings & report Stanton as far as they have
in future sitting

The Committee on Friend Ethan Foster &
Henry of Rhode Island, Samuel Dayes & Valentine
Meader of Salem Conf, & Stephen Wright & John
Paddock of Shrewsbury Quarterly Meeting to examine
& settle the Trustees account, conclude upon & direct
what sum for the ensuing to pay the treasurer

Isby Mitchell, Valentine Meader & Hannah Chace,
are appointed to prepare a Summary of the answers
to the Queries which have been received and produce
at [illegible] sitting.

The representatives are requested to convene to-
gether and report at [illegible] sitting the names
of such suitable Friends to [illegible] the ensuing
assistant Clerk for the ensuing year.

[illegible]

Ordered that the time adjourned to
Friend again assembled.

Valentine Page on behalf of the committee
reported that the meeting had been favored
to unite in appointing Isby Mitchell for the
Clerk of the meeting and Valentine Meader for assis-
tant Clerk, the names were separately considered
and the [illegible] unite [illegible] are ac-
cordingly appointed to those services respectively
for the ensuing

The State of Society was entered upon by the reading of the queries with answers thereto from each of the Quarterly Meetings, and the several Representatives [illegible] which being fully read is directed to be placed on file. The subject of meeting was brought under deep exercise on account of the [illegible] and Brethren in view of the manifest departure of too many of our dear young friends from that simplicity of dress, and plainness of address which ever became the [illegible]

Friends are admonished of the duty as heretofore incumbent on such whose lives are exposed to indulgence in the various pursuits of the world, and who are concerned to the exercise of proper care and watchfulness towards those under their direction, that so by faithfulness and a continuance in right doing, they may be favored from time to time, with the evidences of the [illegible] on their own minds, the eyes of their understanding [illegible] first known the inside of the cup and the platter made clean, that the outside of them may become clean also.

An Epistle from a body of Friends assembled at Ledru in Ledru County Iowa signed by John Hampton and Seth Yarnall as clerks, having been laid before this meeting and the appointed persons directed to prepare a reply thereto, the same was now produced and read, and the clerk directed to forward it to the said Friends, with the unity and love of this meeting.

Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of Ohio, Indiana, Baltimore, New York, Genesee, Canada, Philadelphia, New England, Western, Virginia, North Carolina, and Indiana, were also read, and the clerk directed to forward answers to them.

[illegible] Friends [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Ohio, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Indiana, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Baltimore, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of New York, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Genesee, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Canada, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of New England, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Western, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Virginia, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of North Carolina, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Indiana.

[illegible] Friends [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Ohio, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Indiana, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Baltimore, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of New York, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Genesee, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Canada, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of New England, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Western, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Virginia, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of North Carolina, [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Indiana.

Respectfully, Mitchell Clerk

Minutes of the Society

January 1st. 1845 The usual meeting on the first Wednesday and also the usual number attended, with the exception of some few members who were kept away by the inclemency of the weather or the absence of friends to attend other meetings. There are just two members, who are absent this week from the meeting and on the middle of the week following to be reported as a good. The usual number of appearances of the members present was recorded.

Bro. D. Lowe read from the Book of Mormon, and also a good discourse from Alma and Nephi and explained the same. Bro. Lowe also read from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and explained the same. Bro. Lowe also read from the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and explained the same. It appears that the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their families.

[illegible] Bro. Lowe [illegible] the Book of Mormon. The remaining portion of the

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

# Memorials

Testimony of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting of Friends, concerning John Wilbur, late of Hopkinton, R.I., deceased

"The memory of the just is blessed," and it has ever been the concern of those to whom the cause of Truth is dear, to perpetuate the remembrance, and to preserve memorials of the lives of such as have devoted themselves to its service; whose chief concern was to be found "walking in the footsteps of the flock of Christ's companions," and by example as well as precept, to persuade others to persevere in the pathway of holiness, the end of which is everlasting life. While acknowledging our obligation submissively to acquiesce in every dispensation of Divine Providence, in the assurance that he doeth all things well, yet the removal of such dedicated laborers from the Church Militant has ever been felt as a loss to survivors, and more especially has it been realized at periods of great degeneracy, and when because of the abounding of iniquity, the love of many has waxed cold, and the way of Truth is evil spoken of.

Regarding the present as peculiarly such a time, our minds are deeply impressed under a sense of the loss we have sustained, in the removal from works to rewards of our late beloved friend John Wilbur; and we believe it right for us to hand down to posterity our testimony to the excellency of his character, and to his eminent service in the cause of Truth and righteousness in the earth.

He was born at Hopkinton, R.I. 17th of Seventh month 1774. He was the son of Thomas and Mary Wilbur; who were exemplary members and Elders of our religious society, and were concerned to bring up their children conformably to its principles and disciplines. Few particulars of his childhood having been preserved, we pass over this season with a few remarks thereon, written by himself at a later period. "Regarding what is passed, I may say, that the guarded care of my parents, a constant atten-

1857 duties of religious meetings, and an attention to the reading of the Scriptures, were a great help to my mind in preparing the way for, and directing my attention to the saving principle of Divine grace within; the restraining power of which, I became acquainted with in my early life, and I feel bound thankfully to bear testimony to its efficacy and sufficiency in effecting the work of the regeneration and salvation of all who yield to its refining power." I learn this as well as the corroborating statements of others who knew him at this period, that he was a youth of exemplary deportment and religiously inclined from early life. When about nineteen years of age he was united in marriage to Lydia, daughter of Dinah and Thankful Collins, with whom he lived in great harmony and mutual affection, nearly sixty years, until her death, which occurred about three years before his own.

He first appeared in the ministry in the thirty sixth year of his age, and continuing to grow in this gift, and his offerings therein being acceptable to his friends he was acknowledged a minister not long after; and being careful to attend to the monitions of the heavenly teacher, he became an eminent instrument in the Divine hand for promulgating the glorious truths of the gospel of life and salvation to his fellow men. He was evidently attached to the principles of the religious society of which he was a member, not only on account of their accordancy with the Holy Scriptures, and with the precepts and example of his parents, for both of which he had a great veneration but from a strong experimental knowledge of their truth, and efficacy in preserving those who continue and live up to them from the snares of the enemy and the contamination of the world; enabling them to meet with calmness and resignation all the vicissitudes and exercises of life, and leading in the end to the haven of everlasting rest and peace. He believed that they embraced the whole great and glorious plan of redemption as unfolded in the New Testament. Hence, he was a firm believer not only in the Divinity of our Lord and Saviour,

Jesus Christ, and in all that he did for us without us in that prepared body, in which he came to do his Father's will, wherein he tasted death for every man, and suffered the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, nailing out the hand writing of ordinances which were against us, and becoming a propitiation for sins that are past, repented of and forsaken, but also in his inward and spiritual appearance in the heart, wherein is experienced by those who truly look for him, his second coming without sin unto salvation, and his intercession as a sure helper and deliverer in preserving us from falling into the like bondage again. This, with our worthy forefathers, he regarded as the christian covenant, consisting of two parts, both alike essential, and neither availing without the other; but both together constituting the whole grand plan of christian redemption.

But while he was sound in the Scripture doctrines always held by our Friends from the beginning, and was one of whom it might truly be said, "he kept the faith," yet he failed not to enforce the necessity of good works, which he regarded as the genuine fruits of a living faith; and he was deeply concerned to be found living up to his profession, maintaining both by precept and example the importance of holiness of life, and that a mere profession, however good, will avail nothing. He was eminently gifted and qualified for usefulness in the administration of the discipline, and management of the affairs of the Society; his views being clear, and his expression of them generally pertinent and to the point. And while he was careful that offenders be dealt with in tenderness and meekness, yet when such labors of love failed, he was firm and decided in placing the judgment of Truth over such, and often expressed a concern lest through weakness or the fear of man this important duty should be neglected. He was an example of humility, plainness and consistency in his daily walk and concerned to bring up his children therein — combining with gentleness and meekness, firmness and decission; living-

1857 ing in wholesome restraints to the aid of persua-
sion and exhortation, by which through Divine
help, he was remarkably successful in bringing
up a large family of children, in holiness and
sobriety, and at the same time securing their filial
love and tender regard.

He was a diligent attender of meetings
both for worship and discipline, seldom fail-
ing to attend them in due course, unless prevent-
ed by severe illness of himself or some other of
his family; and it was his uniform practice on
such occasions to take his family with him,
as ~~many~~ many of them as he could with convenience,
and when met with his friends for the solemn
purpose of Divine Worship, the weightiness of his
spirit while reverently waiting on the Lord,
was often felt by those who were present, to have
a solemnizing effect on the meeting. When he arose
to speak, it was with the evidence of Divine power;
and he was careful not to run before his guide,
often proceeding slowly and with great deliber-
ation, minding the stepping stones as he proceed-
ed; but when it pleased his Divine Master, as
was often the case, to vouchsafe an open door of
utterance, he appeared as an eminent and powerful
minister of Christ; and it might be truly said of him
that his speech and his preaching were not with en-
ticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration
of the Spirit and of power; often falling upon the
tried and penitent soul as the gentle rain, or
distilling as the silent dew; while to the rebellious
and disobedient it was as the fire and the ham-
mer, causing them to tremble under a sense of
their undone condition as opened to their view,
and raising the query, "What shall we do to be
saved?"

He travelled extensively as a minister, both
in this Country and in Great Britain and
Ireland, which he visited twice, only surviving
his return from the last visit about two years.

In addition to his usual occupation (the cultivation of a small farm), he was much employed by the Community as a surveyor of land; and being considered very reliable and accurate in this vocation he was often sought after as well on this account as for his uprightness in dealing, intelligence, and kindly bearing towards all with whom he had intercourse. To these characteristics may be added a cheerful and social disposition, which rendered him an interesting companion, and he was, so far as is known without exception, beloved and respected by all with whom he thus became associated. In all his intercourse with his fellowmen he was truly a peace maker, being often resorted to as a counsellor in cases of difficulty, and as an arbitrator in settling disputes among his neighbours. He was enabled by the soundness of his judgment and discrimination, through Divine assistance to be eminently serviceable in such cases; and the confidence of his employers in his integrity and impartiality was such, that he was enabled almost without exception, not only to escape the censure of those to whom he decided adversely, but to retain their friendship and respect.

Often with the approbation of his friends he appointed meetings and attended generally among those of other denominations within his own Country, to their comfort and satisfaction; which was frequently acknowledged on their behalf, and tended not a little to strengthen their love and regard for him. But he was far from being of the number of those who court popular favor and applause, who bend the testimonies of Truth, or warp them to suit the public taste. He evinced the same unbending adherence to principle in all Companies and under all circumstances. His faithfulness in this respect, as with many others in different ages who had gone before, brought him into many conflicts, which however he endured with unwavering firmness and fidelity. Of these by far

the matter laying and endeavoring, more than which which arose from a radical departure from the doctrines and testimonies of Friends, on the part of large and sweeping numbers in the Society, at two different periods during his life.

The promulgation of unsound and anti-Christian doctrine by Elias Hicks and his adherents was the occasion of much sore trial to him long before the open rebellion in the Society occasioned thereby; and he was constrained faithfully to bear his testimony against this spirit of unbelief, in all its deceptive appearances; firmly adhering to the ancient testimonies of the Society in regard to the divinity and offices of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and labouring in the ability afforded him to counteract the desolating effect of views so derogatory to his divine character and atoning sacrifice for the redemption of fallen man. But in maintaining this controversy he was mercifully preserved, as we may well believe, through continued reliance upon Him upon whom help is laid, from running into error on the other hand, of which there is ever great danger with those who suffer their natural feelings to predominate, and are remiss in keeping up the watch, as we have lamentable evidence in the falling away of many in this way, who escaped the wreck of the first storm.

In the year 1831-2 he made his first visit to Great Britain and Ireland; where he soon saw the workings of a spirit, the tendency of which appeared to him to be to carry the Society back towards the outward and literal views of the Jewish state as of the day, and if unchecked to lead its members on the same ground, from which our faithful predecessors had just taken their departure. In his own language he "saw or thought he saw the great subtle foe, the enemy, in taking advantage of the Hicksite heresy, which led off on the one side from the true doctrine, working on the minds of those who were the most prepared to forsake the original ground of visibility; so that while they were guarding against a fatal lapse on the one hand, he might the more easily

- blunge them into another as destructive as the other, - both insidious and defective in relation to the true faith in the offices and attributes of the Saviour of men." As, against the views of Elias Hicks and his followers, so against these unsound views, he felt called upon both then, and after his return to his native Country land to bear his testimony. And when, a few years after, Joseph John Gurney, who was strongly identified with these new views (having introduced and advocated them more or less openly in most of his voluminous writings, and thus more than any one else being publicly responsible for them) came to this Country on a religious visit, we believed it must be our early opportunity on his arrival in New England, to express to him the uneasiness which he had long felt with many of the views thus promulgated in his printed works, now spread abroad not only in England, but widely in this Country also. We entreated him to disavow such portions of them as were not in accordance with the ancient and well known principles of the Society, as the first step towards opening his way for service amongst us. But instead of complying with this request, or in any way making satisfaction, he entered into a defence of all his writings, claiming that there was nothing unsound in them; and attempted to shield himself behind the certificate which he brought with him. This being the case, and failing to prevail on the meeting for sufferings here, to investigate those writings and decide on their soundness, he felt constrained as an individual, from a sense of religious duty, and in accordance with the requirements of our discipline to warn his fellow members against imbibing, or giving countenance to these unsound sentiments. We do not regard this as the proper place to detail the consequences of the faithfulness of our dear departed friend herein, nor is it necessary, as a correct account thereof, has already been published and extensively circulated. Suffice it to say, that amid the sufferings and conflicts consequent thereon, he never faltered in his adherence to the

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original principles and testimonies of the Society of Friends, as held and maintained by George Fox, Robert Barclay, and their co-labourers in the beginning, and died as he had lived, in the firm belief that in adhering to them through evil report and good report; he had not followed cunningly devised fables, but pure, heavenly and eternal Truth. And it may truly be said of him as of Joseph, anciently, "The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him; but his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob"

He was much and justly valued as a correspondent, and his labors in this line were extensive during the greater part of his life. His letters whether descriptive, didactic or religious, were always interesting, and the latter class were by far the most numerous; and it was eminently as a religious writer that he excelled. In penning his views on subjects of this important nature he avoided speculation and went directly to the point of vital Christianity. The continued support and perpetuation of the principles and testimonies of Truth, in their original purity, as always maintained by faithful Friends, was to him a subject of paramount importance; and for this he laboured abundantly, both orally and in writing; being often during the latter part of his life bowed down under deep concern lest they should through the love of ease, lukewarmness and the speculative propensities of this degenerate age, be cast aside and lost to the world; than which he believed a greater loss could scarcely befall the family of man.

Owing to the introduction of the unsound views into the Yearly Meeting, much that he wrote during the latter part of his life was of a controversial nature; yet few men were more averse to controversy for its own sake or more inclined to avoid it in common conversation, unless principle was involved, than he; but when this was so, whether in public or in private, he failed not to defend the Truth and the right, often saying that of the fine and unchangeable principles of Truth comma he maintained

without controversy, then now, as at the first; they must be maintained by controversy; that faithful and upright men have in all ages stepped up & continued against error and corruption, and that while a succession of such continues to be raised up, and error and wrong continue in the earth, so long this controversy must and will be maintained.

After the sanction in New England Yearly Meeting was effected, through the efforts of those who gave their support to the unsound sentiments, which unhabily included many of the influential characters therein, thus causing the devastation to be more widely spread; he labored assiduously for the preservation of the small body which continued to adhere to the ancient doctrines of the Society, and for that of the honest hearted in other parts of the heritage, under a concern for whom he visited with certificate, many of the meetings of the Meetings within the limits of New York Yearly Meeting. He also attended the Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia, and many of the subordinate Meetings thereto belonging, greatly to the comfort of the sincere hearted, to whom the the ancient testimonies of truth were still dear, many of whom were under suffering for the cause sake and labouring under much discouragement.

In the Spring of 1853 he laid before his Monthly Meeting the prospect of a second visit to Great Britain and Ireland. This was no small trial to him, as well as to his Children and friends; his advanced age making the prospect of his return look dauntful. But after weighty deliberation upon it, and believing the exercise to be in the line right, his Concern received the approbation of the Monthly, and subsequently of the Quarterly and Yearly Meetings, and became furnished with certificates of unity and sympathy therefrom, he embarked from Boston on the 28th of 9th month 1853 accompanied by his son Amos C Wilbur.

Soon after this arrival in England, he had an interview with a large Committee of the Meeting for Sufferings at their request

before us, he showed his concern for the preservation of the Society on its ancient ground of plainness and discipline, and shewed that this was what himself and friends in New England had been standing for; and that where the matter had been fully investigated, as was done by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, this was found and acknowledged to have the Case. Although they allowed him to relieve his mind, and were unable to gainsay or resist what he said, yet it was painful to him to find themselves committed to the views of J. J. Gurney, and unwilling to acknowledge that any portion of them were unsound. Besides this, he had interviews with many others of the leading Characters in different places, who generally acknowledged unity with the same sentiments. Thus he found his previous apprehensions in regard to this Class confirmed; but in the course of this visit he found a Considerable number of true mourners in Zion, whose eyes had been anointed to see things in their true light. These were sitting in solitary places and their secret Cry was, "Spare thy people O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach." To these he was in a peculiar manner drawn, and was with them greatly to their Comfort and satisfaction, as was afterwards evinced by written testimonials from some. He was permitted to return to this home in safety, after an absence of about six months.

After this return he seemed to regard his labours as nearly finished; often speaking of this visit as an awful sacrifice, in the offering of which he felt great peace. He proved to be the last labourer of a religious nature, who made beyond the limits of his own Yearly Meeting; within which, however he continued to labour to the Comfort and edification of his friends.

Though firm and uncompromising he was mild and forbearing and remarkably serene, evincing no ill will towards those who dif-

fered given him, and were disposed to resort to extreme measures against him. He often spoke of having endeavoured to weigh his motives, and his act in this matter, with those whom he once regarded as his friends, in the balance of the sanctuary, with a desire to be rightly directed in all his movements; saying that whenever he had looked towards concession and compromise, the way had seemed covered with darkness, and he had clearly seen that those precious testimonies of Truth for which our worthy predecessors suffered and laid down their lives, cannot, without incurring a fearful responsibility be compromised. Having faithfully served his Lord and Master in his day and generation, the evening of his life was eminently serene and tranquil, evincing a state of quiet waiting for the great change, which he looked upon as near; often remarking both in public and private, that he believed his day's work was nearly done. Especially was this the case during the last year of his life. Being much indisposed, while on a visit to one of his daughters, he said he often thought of the probability of his being suddenly removed, and remarked that there was no terror to him in the prospect; but that it looked pleasant to him. And in a public testimony in his own Monthly Meeting, after expressing his continued impression, that he was near the termination of his earthly labors, he said that in looking towards a separation from the world and the things of it, he felt that there were no shackles to be broken; that the world had lost its charms for him, that there was nothing pertaining to it which it was hard for him to leave, save his beloved friends, and he trusted that even that separation from them would be made easy; that the change to him seemed desirable not only on account of a release from labor and exercise, but of a reunion of loved ones who had gone before. On taking leave of a friend's family after attending the last Monthly Meeting

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before his decease, though then in actual health, he remarked that he believed he was there for the last time. Thus journeyed and prepared with his lamp trimmed and his light burning he awaited the last remaining conflict, which in Divine mercy and condescension was made short.

On the morning of the 28th of fourth month, 1856, he was seized with severe pain, which threatened immediate dissolution. Being aware of this he said to his daughter, "If I go now it will be well." She soon after reminded him, that he was taken ill much as his mother had been who survived but half an hour; but added "I do not wish to alarm thee." He replied, "Thou cannot alarm me." On the day following, finding that he continued to fail, she said to him, "Father thou art very feeble dost thou expect to recover"? He replied, "No, I know I shall not, and I do not desire it; I am ready to go"! She said "Then thou hast seen enough of this world? He replied "yes plenty, plenty". She told him she had been looking towards him for company, when her dear husband (then low with consumption) should be gone. He replied, "Thou must not!" During the several paroxysms of bodily distress, which lasted for several hours, not a murmur escaped him, nor any tokens of impatience. Although active remedies succeeded in relieving his pain, yet his constitution had so far given way, that he continued to sink, and subsequently from weakness, and what appeared like partial paralysis of the organs of speech, articulation became difficult, so that he said comparatively little that could be understood; but what could be understood was indicative of peacefulness and resignation. In reply to the question whether he felt comfort, he replied "very"! His interest in the welfare of the Society continued unabated to the last, as was evinced on the evening before his decease, by his desiring to hear read a letter received, giving some account of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; and during its reading

he turned his face to the window, and listened attentively. On being enquired of if he understood it, he replied that he did. Late in the evening his eldest son, who lived at a distance, and whom he had been expecting, arrived; and, on approaching him, asked him if he knew him; he called him by name, and smiled very pleasantly. Hidon inquired of him in regard to the state of his mind; he answered that "His way was clear before him," — to another he said he was "very happy" which was nearly his last expression. In the latter part of the night he fell into a quiet slumber, in which he continued until about eight o'clock on Fifth day morning, the 21st of Fifth month, when he departed hence, aged nearly eighty two years, and was interred in Friends burying ground, in Hopkinton, on the 24th of the same, after a solemn meeting on the occasion, wherein a true and living testimony was borne to the uprightness of his character and the faithful dedication of his life, to the blessed cause of Truth and righteousness.

In thus reviewing the life and gospel labors of this our departed friend, we are led to adopt as peculiarly applicable to him, the language of the beloved and faithful disciple, conveyed to him in the visions of light: "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." And so we have been favored to believe, that the results of the faithful labors of this dedicated servant of the Lord, have not terminated with his valuable and eventful life; but that they will continue to be felt, to the strengthening and encouraging of survivors and those that follow after, even in ages and generations yet to come.

Signed by direction and on behalf of Youth Kingstown Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Hopkinton 23d of third month, 1857

Ethan Foster, Clerk
Ann Perry, Clerk

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# Lydia Wilbur

Testimony of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting Concerning Lydia Wilbur, deceased.

Our Beloved friend Lydia Wilbur was born in Stonington, Connecticut, 22d of 4th mo 1775. Her parents were Amos and Thankful Collins, esteemed members of the Society of Friends. She was religiously inclined from her youth up, and was exercised to the station of an Elder at an early age, which station she continued to fill with fidelity and diligence during the remainder of her life. Entering early into the marriage state, the cares and responsibilities of a numerous family devolved upon her. She was entirely united with her husband, and his faithful helper in endeavouring to bring up their children in simplicity and plainness, according to our profession, and to teach them the fear of the Lord. And her concern was not only for her family, but she greatly loved and desired the prosperity of Truth everywhere. It may truly be truly said that she was a peace maker, - prudent and discreet. She had very humble views of her own attainments, always preferring others to herself.

She was a most affectionate wife and mother, and entered deeply into feeling and sympathy with her dear husband in his many religious engagements, freely giving him up to travel in Truth's service.

The following brief extracts from some of her letters written to him whilst he was engaged in a religious visit to Great Britain and Ireland will serve to show the state of her mind at that time, and the near unity and sympathy she felt with him in his gospel labors and travels in that land.

Second month, 9th, 1832. "I can salute thee in the love that first united us together and I trust will always remain, and I desire that the preserving hand that has been with thee may still

continue to be with thee in all thy trials, and in all thy lonely moments, which no doubt thou sometimes experiences. I believe the Master hath called you this sacrifice at thy hands; to give up all that was near and dear to thee in this life, to cross the mighty ocean, and there to proclaim the everlasting gospel to a people unknown to thee. Although discouragements at times seem to be my lot, yet as I endeavour to abide in patience they are removed and I am made a little to rejoice that I have been permitted to take the care at home, while my dear husband is so employed for the peace of his own mind and the good of the precious cause."

2nd mo. 7th, 1732 "I believe we have all tried to do the best we could in thy absence, although I sometimes get closely tried with the thought of being so long separated from thee, my dear husband; but I have endeavoured for patience, and to wear the sackcloth underneath, but it would be no marvel if the edge of the hem should shame sometimes appear. I cannot express the sympathy and tender regard I feel for thee, and I do greatly desire that the eye unslumbering Shepherd of Israel may keep and direct thee in all thy movements and that the zeal of thy mind may stand sure on that Rock where there is safety. I greatly desire for myself that I may keep in this safe place, but I feel my unworthiness and the need of thy help and prayers for my preservation."

Eighth month 25, 1732 "I think my health is as good as I could expect amid my trials and afflictions, which have been many. My trust has been in the Lord alone, and blessed be his name, he has been as a stay and a staff to bear up my mind when it has been ready to faint by the way. Oh! how I have craved that the Lord may be near to sustain thee in this time of deep trial, and in all others that may be permitted thee, so that thou may not sink

to faint under the sore affliction which has been meted out to us no doubt for our good.* How pleasant it would be if we have the sweet countenance of our beloved companion at this time; but I dare not ask for it until it pleases God to release from that bond."

The singular and varied traits of character her deceased husband, during the latter part of his life, consequent upon a faithful adherence to our ancient doctrines and testimonies, weighed heavily upon her spirit; and tended not a little at times to cast her down, yet her sympathy and near feeling with them were manifested by the holding up and strengthening of his hands, while under suffering and persecution on this account.

"In the Spring of 1852, her health which had been gradually failing for two or three years, became much impaired and symptoms of disease appeared which soon assumed a serious aspect. In the early part of her sickness she said, she would like to live a little longer on account of her dear husband, &c. remarking that he would be left very lonely; but after a time this was made very easy to her, and she gave up all expectation and desire of recovery, saying, "I would rather go". She said several time, that it was a great thing to be entirely prepared for such a change. Once when making this remark, she said she thought she was not quite ready; that there was much to look over. She was endued with remarkable patience and sweet resignation to the Divine will; her countenance bespeaking great quietude of mind. On it being observed to her that she looked very happy, she said she was so. A friend enquired of her how it looked to her now in regard to the stand which we had taken in reference to the bondage in Society. She replied, "it looks as clear to me now as ever it did."

She requested her dear love to be given to her children that were not present, then added, give my love to every body. She gradually sailed and after lying

* Referring to the death of the loved daughter, an account of which, by another hand, accompanied this letter.

in a death like slumber for two or three days, when it was thought she would speak no more, she opened her eyes and in an audible voice said, "I shall now go soon; — I am ready;" after which she spoke no more, but continued several hours appearing to be in a sweet sleep; and so departed drawing her breath so gently shorter and shorter that the precise moment when the spirit left, could scarcely be perceived. She died on the 19th of 12th mo, 1852, in the seventy fifth year of her age, and was interred in friends burying ground at Hopkinton on the 22d, after a solemn meeting on the occasion. — And now, in view of the quiet and lowly walk of this our beloved friend through life, we feel this language of our Lord and Saviour to be peculiarly applicable in her case, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Signed By direction and on behalf of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Hopkinton 23d of 3d mo 1857

Ethan Foster Clerk
Alvin Perry Clerk

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## Thomas Foster

Testimony of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting concerning Thomas Foster deceased.

Our beloved friend Thomas Foster, son of Ethan and Temperance Foster, was born in Richmond Rhode Island, 22 of 4th mo 1804. His parents were members of our religious society, and were led to bring up their children conformably to our rules and discipline.

When he was very young they removed into a neighborhood in Connecticut where there was no meeting of Friends, nor any other Friends families; and their children were unavoidably exposed to many snares and temptations, which in a more favorable situation might have been avoided; yet this dear child though fond of youthful sports and pastimes was cautious and diligent; being careful so to conduct himself in work and play as not to grieve his parents, who seldom found it difficult

boys of the neighborhood to which he was exposed particularly while attending school.

When he was about 22 years of age, the family removed to Cumberland Rhode Island, near a Friends' meeting house which they regularly attended. An increased seriousness, and dedication of spirit was soon observable on the part of this dear son, who was not only circumspect, and consistent in his daily walk, and concerned on his own account, but it was not long before it was manifest that his concern extended to others also; as he began occasionally to speak in public by way of testimony, to the satisfaction of his friends, which he continued to do, during the remainder of his life.

His communications though brief were lively, bearing evidence of being from the spring of true gospel ministry. In his daily walk he was an example of meekness and humility; never being ambitious of distinction, but always satisfied with a low place. About the 24th year of his age he was united in Marriage to Phebe daughter of John and Sydia Tillson and as a husband and father was most affectionate and kind, faithfully endeavouring to bring up his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, being concerned not only by example, and precept but by reproof also when necessary to preserve them in plainness, and consistency. That a blessing rested on his labours in this respect was exemplified in the happy and peaceful close of his sons Ethan, and Thomas, who died two or three years previous to his own removal while just ripening into manhood. Parting with them was a close trial to him; yet the quietness, resignation and unfailing trust in the Saviour's love and mercy, and the joyful assurance which they felt and expressed of acceptance in and through him, tended in no small degree to alleviate the severity of the stroke and enable him to bow in humble submission thereto.

He was for many years a member of his monthly meeting, and for several years an elder; which station he filled to the satisfaction of his friends, and in which he was a sincere and faithful laborer. In his intercourse with his fellowmen he was characterized by integrity and uprightness, and

and in the management of his temporal concerns industry, and frugality — looking well to the affairs of his household and eating not the bread of idleness.

It was a firm believer in the doctrines and testimonies of our religious society as held and maintained by our worthy forefathers predecessors, at the rise thereof, and of all of the same stamp in every subsequent age: and was a faithful upholder of them — being freely given up to suffer with those who felt bound to the Law and to the Testimony, ceasing not through evil report or good [illegible] thereto. And he was concerned with them to give in his testimony against [illegible] and innovation upon them.

He was troubled with a severe cough from early life, [illegible] and often great loss of sleep, but he endured this affliction with exemplary patience. For a year previous to his last illness [illegible] conviction was given [illegible] (being exposed to very severe weather in going to attend the Quarterly Meeting at North Providence) he was attacked by a lung fever, which terminated in consumption. After this attack he was apprehensive that he should not recover, and did not appear anxious as to the event; but subsequently said: "At the commencement of my illness [illegible] I feared I should not be ready, and felt distressed in my mind, but was finally enabled to resign myself entirely up into the hands of my Saviour. [illegible] I was favored to [illegible] the being peaceful and quiet, but had not that certain evidence of being accepted which I desired.

"[illegible] this my Saviour appeared to me in a clear & delightful manner — so contriting my heart that I became as a little child; I was encompassed with a bright and beautiful light & [illegible] I had never heard any thing like it before." In this my Saviour appeared, and assured me that my sins were all blotted out and a mansion prepared for me in his blessed kingdom, and that he would be with me, and preserve me unto the end: that the enemy should have no power over me. "I was in sweet communion with him

for ½ an hour." When the scene was past, he related this to his wife, in much brokenness of spirit, saying: "My heart overflows with gratitude; my Saviour has done so much for me; more than I could ask or think, for such a poor creature as I am. It is all of his mercy; it is wonderful that he should so at once blot out my sins, and receive me into his favour; filling my mind with love and praise.

"I have not words to express the joy and happiness I feel. It is more than human tongue can utter.

I now know my sins all gone before hand to judgment." He lived more than 3 week after this but continued to feel the same blessed assurance to the last.

The day following this favoured season he had his family called together, and first addressed his aged father-in-law, John Pilbeam (who after the death of his wife in 1852 made his home with his) saying: "how it would delight me to see you with the rest in the many trials connected with the troubles in our Society, a large portion of which have fallen to thy lot. I believe that thou hast been contending for the truth as it is, and hope thou will not be discouraged; I have never myself been wavering in faith in regard to the precious doctrines of our ancient Faith, and have laboured in sincerity to uphold them.

I have loved the Lord Jesus from a child, and endeavoured to serve him in my small measure. Although I have fallen short many times of doing my duty and being what I might be to him, yet through faith in him and a distrust of myself, I have not been wilfully disobedient, therefore I am forgiven, and all is now light, and life, in which there is no darkness at all." To his wife and children he said: I want you to give me up freely, and not be any hindering to ever your minds, for this is no cause for discouragement if you are truly faithful. I want you dear children to take up the cross in the morning of your days, and be watchful and obedient; don't look back or mind the dark side of things, but look steadily to him who will support you and carry you through the depths of difficulties and make you to dwell in the light."

He used much to enjoy the [illegible] most of his work was prade: often saying, "my heart is filled with praise, from morning till evening, and from evening till morning" sometimes appearing vocally in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. His cough was so troublesome much of the time that he could get little rest, except in a sitting posture; for two days and nights in succession he sat in his chair; but endured all with patience; not a murmur or complaint escaped him. He would frequently say that his sufferings were as nothing; that the Lord supported him in such a manner that all was made easy. He desired [illegible] any attention for his produce, and many to the visitation of mercy: he desired every day of my time, and when my measure of sufferings is filled up. He will receive me into his blessed kingdom, where I shall forever sing the song of Moses, and Lamb, with the redeemed and redeemed of all generations.

The enemy is not suffered to tempt me: I never had any conception of such happiness before; it cannot be expressed by words — what must be [illegible]."

The morning he [illegible] coming into the room he seemed much affected under a sense of the goodness of God; — the sweetness and [illegible] of his spirit at this time was strikingly apparent, and he proceeded to give them much good advice, telling them it came from a dying father who knew what he said — recommending to them frequent inward retirement, and reflection, adding, there is plenty of time for it — I have had many good meetings in the field where my intercessions have often been raised to the Father of mercies for you my dear children, that you might be preserved in the truth."

At another time "I have no trouble no fear, death has no terror to me, the sting of death is taken away." The Psalms were so applicable to the state of his mind that he often requested to hear portions of them read, particularly when he would sing or say in praise of the Lord — saying he never comprehended so well before the feelings of the Psalmist when he utters so much praise.

He appeared to sit patiently a little time they would not endeavour to feed him

saying: "I know not what manner of man I should be after feeling and seeing what I have, to return to the world again; I could have no interest in anything but doing the will of my Heavenly Father, all other concerns of life would appear so worthless, and the [illegible] of my earthly affairs is entirely taken away." Sometimes he would say, "I am prepared to go, and long for the time to come;" — sometimes he would say, "The Lords' will, is my will, and his time is the right time." He frequently spoke of the death of his two sons, before alluded to, saying: "I mourned too much for them, it looks very different to me now; I see great wisdom in their being thus early removed."

When his friends visited him he usually had something to impart of a religious, and instructive nature. When [illegible] present, he was much engaged in this way, first telling them what the Lord had done for his soul, that he felt that his name was written in Lambs' book of life, and that [illegible] was prepared for him. He exhorted Friends to faithfulness in all their testimonies, the necessity of the cultivation of [illegible] and diligence; encouraging to greater diligence therein, and referring to our ancient Friends, how much they suffered for these precious testimonies, and how little we had endured in comparison with them; saying no fear of man or dread of suffering kept them from this meeting. Although often taken from them and carried into trouble, danger, and [illegible] they would not shrink.

When [illegible] removed to his death, his father in law, Phineas Baker took sick, and after a brief illness, died. Although he was tenderly attached to him, he continued calm, and exhibited strength of faith, appearing to be carried beyond the reach of sorrow. The day previous to his father's death he desired to be helped into his room to see him; on parting they embraced each other most affectionately, the father saying it might be the last time; the son, that it was no matter, they should soon meet again.

being informed of his departure, he
[illegible] friends [illegible]
he seated in his own room, and after a time of se
[illegible]
for him for he was met with that glorious
company of joy & who continually sing the Redeemers
praises in that city which hath no need of the light
of the sun nor of the moon for the Lord God and the
Lamb are the light thereof;" adding "I shall soon
be with him, and we shall enjoy each other," with mu
[illegible]
was a truly memorable one in which the Divine presen
and favor were [illegible]. The [illegible] of ou
others pride & vain efforts, but in testimony and sup
plication.

One morning he said. "The enemy
was around me last night trying to look in, and
I immediately applied to my Saviour, at which
he fled away. The dear master promised, when
he [illegible]
ever that the enemy should have no power over me
if I kept close to Him, and he will fulfill his prom
ises, for they are yea and amen forever." He then
added "The devil may hurry me & [illegible]
[illegible]

It was very instructive to witness the calm re
liance on the divine promises which constantly sustain
his spirit, hoping and every shadow of doubt and fe
leaving him in [illegible] to the last. He remarke
one morning "I love the simplicity of God's word, which
Wisdom is so largely treated of in saying. It has dwelt very
much with me through the nights, and I have been
made wonderfully to see how far the wisdom of God surpasses
the wisdom of man." Again he said, "I would not exchang
the glorious prospect which is given me for the whole world.
no! not for ten thousand worlds could could I possess them."

He [illegible] spoke of the shortness
of the journey, and also of our position thereon, saying: "I
never had a doubt from beginning to end, of the correct
ness of our course; I believe the separation was in the right
time though not brought about by us. The course we
pursued was the only one by which our principles
and testimonies could have been supported."

Again, his brother and sister coming to see him the day before his death, he expressed to them the satisfaction [illegible] in connection with other friends, in standing against the attempted innovations upon our pure principles, saying: "I have looked it all over and feel entirely satisfied and peacefull, yea joyfull in the prospect;" adding, in reviewing it [illegible] over, "there was no other way." The same day addressing his wife, he said: "I believe the Lord brought us together; I felt sensible of his direction in my choice; we have taken a great deal of comfort together, and been blessed many ways— thou art the nearest to me of any thing in this world; thou and the dear children never felt so near to me before; and my love so extends to the whole human family that I feel as though I could enfold them all in my arms— [illegible] I love more, and whom I long to be with. Dont mourn too much for me when I am gone, remember I shall be happy— the Lord has promised to be a father to the fatherless and a husband to the widows, and he will make a way for you and take care of you if your whole trust is placed in Him. I think I shall be excused from saying much more. my work is done: what should I do now, if it were not so?"

The next day he lay very quiet and still [illegible] to have no desire for many words, if his strength would allow it. His countenance bore the impress of an heavenly serenity, and on his wife saying to him "thou looks very happy" he replied "I am, after which remarking that he felt [illegible] to be [illegible] saying "I want to fall quietly away to my Saviour, where I shall be forever at rest." He lay in this quiet and comfortable state untill the close; his mind remaining clear, and his countenance expressive of sweet peace. About five o'clock in the afternoon he desired to have his pillows changed, after which he breathed shorter and shorter for about twenty minutes, when without a struggle, he passed away, we have no doubt to the heavenly mansions where he is now [illegible] prepared for him. He departed this life on the 24th of 3 mo 1846 aged 53 years and one month. His remains were interred on the 27th of 3 mo following. 62 Half Hollow. after a solemn meeting.

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1851
6 mo

The Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island commencing with Public Meeting for worship at Newport on second day the 13th of 6th mo 1858 and on second day morning the 14th of the same for discipline

We account it a renewed favor and mercy to be permitted as heretofore, it appears the following have been appointed to attend this meeting as representatives from Rhode Island & Philip Sip, William Hill, Athmit Foster, Charles Perry, John J Kenyon, Jeremiah Foster, Joseph Brinton & Grace Buffington—

From Salem and Vassar, Nathan Page, Elmathan Penney, George H Reed and Valentine Wander.—

From Sandwich Benjamin Gardner, Peleg Mitchell, Francis Baker George H Eddy, Benjamin Thacker, Thomas R Wilbur and John Beadle, whose names were called the two last present and answered thereto.

We have in the attendance of this meeting the acceptable company of our beloved friend Mead Atwater with a satisfactory certificate from Hartland Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Hartland, Niagara county, New York, the 17th of 3d mo 1858 and endorsed by Farmington Quarterly Meeting held at Hartland the 21st of the 4th mo following expressive unity with his ministry and present religious engagement

We have also the acceptable company of our beloved friend David Heston, with a certificate from Nottingham and Little Britain Monthly Meeting held at Little Britain ~~Monthly Meeting~~ Lancaster County Pennsylvania the 7th of 5 mo last, endorsed by Nottingham Quarterly Meeting held at Nottingham the 14th of the same month expressive of unity with his ministry & present religious engagements

The company of our friend Joshua Haight companion to our friend Mead Atwater, with a minute from Hartland Monthly Meeting held the 18th of the 4th month last expressive unity with his gospel ministry as an approved friend

me Mead Atwater and informing that he is a member of that
meeting in good esteem is also acceptable to us.

It appears that extracts from the minutes of
this meeting of last year have been received by our
several Quarterly Meetings in Rhode Island, Salem
& Eaver Quarter informing that they have directed their
proportion of stock to be paid to our Treasurer, and
Sandwich Quarterly Meeting informed that their proportion
of stock has been paid as requested. We have
also been informed by the record from Rhode
Island that they had united with South Kingstown
Monthly Meeting in the appointment of John
Foster to the station of an Elder.

We have received Epistles at this time from
our ancient friends of New York Yearly Meeting
held at Star Ridge, from Baltimore Yearly Meet-
ing held at Baltimore, and from a body of Friends
assembled at Red River in Iowa under the
name of Salem Quarterly Meeting, all of which
have been read to our satisfaction and comfort
and we appoint our friends Peleg Mitchell, Va-
lentine Meader, Elam Foster, Francis Foster, Thomas
Perry, Harvey Chace, Israel Buffington, George H
Peel, James Austin, Nathan Page & William Ide
to prepare essays of Epistles to those meetings respec-
tively as they may open for it in the Truth and
produce them at a future sitting

We appoint our Friends Jeremiah Foster & Elam H
Gaynor, Thomas Peckham, Valentine Meader, George H Peel
of Salem and Chace, and Jesse Tucker, George H
Eddy from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting to examine
and settle the Treasurers account, & conclude upon
a suitable sum for the meeting to raise, & propose
a Friend to serve the meeting as Treasurer and
report thereon at a future sitting.

Valentine Meader & Peleg Mitchell are ap-
pointed to prepare a summary of the answers
to the queries received at this time & produce it at
our meeting this afternoon.

The Representatives are requested to confer
together at the close of this sitting and conclude
upon the names of suitable friends to propose for
for the service of Clerk and assistant Clerk

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon about the time adjourned to
Friends again assembled

Thos. Foy on behalf of the Representatives
reported that they were united in proposing Elec
Mitchell for the Clerk of this meeting and Pat
ence Vernon for assistant clerk. The names were
severally considered and the Representation united
with by the meeting, and they are accordingly
appointed those Services respectively for the year
ensuing.

The State of Society was entered upon by the
reading of the Queries with the answers from the
several Quarterly Meetings, together with a Summa
ry thereof, which had been prepared by the
Friends appointed to that Service this morning
and which being approved by the meeting is
directed to be placed on record

During the Consideration of the State of
Society as presented by the reading of the answers
to the queries, a lively exercise appeared to prevail
and spread over the meeting that a continued
and renewed Concern should be maintained
to live conformable to our high Profession
Friends were feelingly cautioned against the
unnecessary frequenting of places of Public resort
and especially some not particularly in our
Discipline, a Custom which if indulged in
would be likely to lead to unprofitable con-
versation and rudeness. The practice which has
grown so common, and which some Friends
name may have unguardedly fallen into, of
having pictures or likenesses of themselves, their
families or others exhibited in their dwellings
is also feelingly alluded to as tending to draw
the mind aside into vanity, and being in itself
a practice which is incompatible with our pro-

profession as a self denying people. The grounded education of our beloved youth was weighty and impressively incumbent upon us as a duty to watch over religiously those who have such under their care and those were encouraged to seek for that assistance which can alone enable them to discharge their duty to their beloved offspring and those under their direction in such manner as would tend to their own peace whether they should hear or, ~~whether they should forbear~~ whether they should forbear.

Queries answers

1st All our meetings for religious worship & discipline have been duly held except a few in the middle of the week in one Meeting, and one small Preparative Meeting — that on first days now & then attended by most friends tho' some neglect is apparent herein. Mid week Meetings and some for discipline not so well attended. The day is mostly observed with a few exceptions. Some appearance of sleeping in meeting, and young some extending no other unbecoming behaviour noticed.

2d Love and Unity appear to be in good degree maintained and detraction generally guarded against. When differences have arisen endeavours have been used to end them.

3 A concern appears to rest on the minds of most friends to bring up those under their direction in plainness of speech behaviour and apparel, and to restrain them from pernicious reading and from corrupt conversation. Yet there are evidences amongst us of too much remissness with some in these respects tho' many are generally exemplary herein themselves, the Holy Scriptures appear to have been frequently read in most friends families.

4th Friends appear to have been careful to confine the use of spirituous liquors to medicinal purposes with one exception in

1854
6mo

which same Labour has been bestowed. Vanities and places of public resort are mostly avoided, and a good degree of moderation and temperance observed on the occasion of births ~~and~~ Marriages, burials and on other occasions.

5th 2d The circumstances of the poor have been attended to & their children put to Schools of learning. None have been placed out from among Friends.

6th Events and needs of families with the young and unmarried appear to be mostly careful in these respects & two instances of marriage out of the order of the Society are reported one of which is under notice

7th. Religious testimony appears to be maintained against the payment of Priests wages, Tithes &c. Training &c, with a small exception in one meeting, and the report from another that some of their members have attended meetings with those whose ministry is enlarged, and that some care has been extended. No exception are marked in regard to the other particulars of this query

8th It is to appear to be mostly careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts and to be punctual to their promises and just in the discharge of their debts, with a few exceptions reported from one meeting, in which same care has been extended. They are also generally careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances

9 Friends appear to take a good degree of care in regard to records, although some exceptions is reported from one meeting. Three instances of Removal without certificates are noticed

10th A care appears to rest on the minds of Friends to deal with offenders in the spirit and manner set forth in the query, yet some neglect is reported therein. Also to bring judgment in the authority of Truth according to Discipline

Adjourned to the 10th Inst. Tomorrow morning

[illegible] day morning the 15th day of [illegible] A.D. 1855

The minutes of the last session being read they were approved

The Committee appointed at the last session of this Court to audit and settle the accounts of the Treasurer of the County reported that they had met and performed the duties assigned them and that the Treasurer had produced to them the following vouchers, to wit

[illegible]

The Committee to audit and settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes

Report

The Committee have attended to their duty as directed and find that the accounts have been correctly kept, the receipts have been duly accounted for and that the expenditures are fully vouched for, and that there remains in the Treasury a balance of Three hundred and seven dollars & 80/100 Dollars

The Committee are entitled in recommending that the sum of Two Hundred dollars be allowed to defray the expenses of the Meeting the ensuing year, and to be in proportion named Buffington for Treasurer

And the [illegible] of the Committee

Thos S Cross

Which report was read and Daniel Buffington was accordingly appointed Treasurer for the year ensuing, as witness our hands at Court

And the Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward to him their respective proportions of

two hundred dollars The Sum agreed to be raised and the Clerk is directed to give him credit for the same.

Ruth Cadle from one entered Friends Meeting house & Sworn after Wm. Gordon Clerke County Pennsylvania having been informed to our Meeting yesterday the Service was referred to a Committee who having at this time recommended the reading Record, it was read accordingly and the exercise and travail of Spirit which arrived, was credited to our satisfaction Ruth was directed to furnish herewith, and the Clerk was directed to furnish him with a Copy of this minute

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon

afternoon, met according to adjournment

The Committee appointed this morning to consider of and lay before the meeting the names of suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings have produced the following report, which after due consideration was approved, and the Friends therein named were accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensueing year

Report

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed to consider the names of suitable Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensueing year Report.

That they have attended to the service and are united in proposing the following named Friends Viz.

Ely Mitchell, Nathan Page, Hannah Slater, Daniel Foster, William Hill, Benjamin Gardner Sebastian Hussey, John Paddock, Benjamin Tucker Israel Buffington, James Austin, Ethan Foster Thomas R Wilbur, William B Olney, Amos C Wilbur, John J Kenyon, George C Kenyon, Philip Lapham, Elisha Eddy, George W Read, Harvey Peace, Stephen Swift, Miller Peace, Valentine Meader, Charles Perry and Levi Peace.

On behalf of the Committe William Hill

adjourned to the third home forenoon of
Seventh day afternoon the 16th — Friends met
assembled Pursuant to adjournment

The names of the Representatives having been
called, they were all present

Extract from the minutes of Deed Friends of
New York Quarterly Meeting now held at 8th St
Philad.a, Baltimore Yearly Meeting now held at Balt.
Lonsdale? Salem Quarterly Meeting held at Red
Cedar in Iowa — having been prepared by the Com-
mittee appointed to that service on second day
morning, were introduced and read, and having
been weightily and deliberately considered were
approved, and the Clerk directed to sign and for-
ward copies thereof to those meetings respectively

The following returning minutes prepar-
ed by the same Committee in behalf of said
Friends, now in the attendance of this meeting
with Certificates, were read, and being considered
were approved, and the Clerk directed to furnish
them with Copies thereof accordingly

Our beloved Friend Mead Attwater attended
this meeting with a certificate from Westland
Monthly Meeting held at Westland Cayuga Co
State of New York 1st of 3mo 1858 and endorsed
by Farmington Quarterly Meeting held at the
same place 21st of 4mo 1858. His company and
Gospel labours have been truly acceptable and
edifying to us, and the Clerk is directed to fur-
nish him with a copy of this minute.

Our beloved Friend David Heston attended
this meeting with a certificate from Notting-
ham and Little Britain Monthly Meeting held
at Little Britain Lancaster County Pennsyl-
vania 7th of 5mo 1858 endorsed by Nottingham
Quarterly Meeting held at the same place
the 14th of the same month, his company and
Gospel labours have been truly acceptable
and edifying to us, and the Clerk is —

1858
6mo



Our beloved friend Jathan Haight, a companion to Head Waters, attended this meeting with a copy of a minute from Hardwick Monthly Meeting held the 14th of the 4mo 1858. His companion & Solid deportment have been acceptable to us, and the Clerk is directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute.

The Clerk was directed to make such further extracts from our minutes as have not already been provided for and sign them on our behalf.

Having been favoured during the several sittings of this meeting with the renewed extensions of Divine regard, by which our hearts have been felt to be cemented together in the bands of Gospel fellowship, and been enabled in the ability afforded to accomplish the weighty concerns which have claimed the attention of the meeting, in near feelings of unity, condescension under an humbling and contrite sense thereof we conclude, purposing to meet again at the usual time on this Island next year if Consistent with the Divine will

Signed Mitchell Hoxie

From Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, commencing with public Meetings on Seventh day the 12th of 6th mo 1859 & on second day morning the 13th of the same for discipline

By accounts received from our several Quarterly Meetings, it appears they have appointed the following Friends to attend this meeting as representatives, viz. From Rhode Island & Smithfield, Peter, Isaac Hicks, Lewis Chase, Daniel Sheffield, George C. Gibbons, Charles Perry & Hannah Chace — From Salem & Dover Nathan Page, George F. Read, William B. Miller & Valentine Hoag — From Sandwich Peleg Mitchell, Thomas Hilliker, Francis Tucker, George H. Eddy, Benjamin Gardner & Weston Nutter; which names were called they were all present but three, for the absence of two of whom, reasons have been received

With one exception our several Quarterly Meetings have acknowledged the reception of Extracts from the minutes of this meeting last year, Rhode Island, Salem & Dover Quarterly Meetings inform in their accounts that they have directed their proportion of stock to be paid to our Treasurer, and Sandwich Quarterly Meeting informs that their proportion of stock has been paid as required, and that in the Dartmouth last, their meeting united with Nantucket Monthly Meeting in approving the gift and public appearance in the Ministry of of Narcissa B Coffin & with Dartmouth Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Alice Hilliker to the station of an Elder & in the fourth month with New Bedford Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Mary Ann Taber to the same station.

Two communications having been laid before the meeting, one purporting to come from New York Yearly Meeting of Friends one signed by James D. Otis as Clerk & the other by John Wing & Isaac S. Barmman as Clerks; after a time of deliberation, our friends William Hill, Valentine Hoag, Benjamin Gardner

1859
6mo



James Austin, Thomas R Wilbur, Phillip Thp, Silas Mitchell, John T Kenyon, Ethan Foster, Daniel Buffington & John H Foster were appointed to take the subject into Consideration, under the direction of Best Wisdom & report their judgment at a future Sitting.

An Epistle from our beloved friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, has been received and read at this time, to our satisfaction and comfort and we appoint our friends Valentine Wader, George H Read, James Austin, George H Eddy, Thomas R Wilbur, Ethan Foster, to prepare an essay of an Epistle to that Meeting if they should see cause for it, and produce it at a future sitting.

We appoint our friends Thomas Perry, Harvey Chace of Rhode Island, Valentine Wader & George H Read of Salem & Dover, & Gorham Russell and George H Eddy of Sandwich Quarterly Meetings to examine & settle the Treasurers account, & conclude upon a suitable sum for the meeting to raise, & a friend to propose as Treasurer and report thereon at a future sitting of this meeting.

The Clerk and assistant Clerk are requested to prepare a summary of the answers to the Queries received at this time, and produce it at an adjournment of this meeting

The Representatives were requested to confer together at the close of this sitting & agree upon the names of suitable friends to serve the meeting as Clerk and assistant Clerk for the year ensuing, and report to the adjournment ~~of this meeting~~ this afternoon.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, when the time adjourned to friends again assembled.

William Rose (on behalf of the Representatives) informed; that the most of them had been together and were united in proposing Wm Hallett for the Clerk of this meeting, & Valentine Meader for assistant Clerk; the names were separately considered the proposition united with, & the friends accordingly appointed to those services respectively for the ensuing year.

The State of Society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries with answers given and several Exhorting Queries, & the Friends to be sure to quote this morning to be borne in remembrance, & produced one, which was also read & given appraised; the Clerk is directed to place it upon record, and while the meeting was under the exercise and travail of spirit; Consequent upon the deficiencies thus brought to view, several tender & affectionate testimonies for the Truth were born amongst us, in the power and authority thereof.

Adjourned to the 10th day of 1st month

3rd day, morning the 10th met pursuant to adjournment

The names of the Representatives being Called they were all present but two.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been laid before the meeting at this time, were read and approved, and William Hill, Isaac Fish, John Foster of Warwick, Israel Buffington, Philip Tripp, James Austin, Stephen Smith Samuel Sheffield, Valentine Meader and Miller Chase are appointed to consider of the names of suitable Friends to Constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year and report thereon to an adjournment of this meeting

The committee appointed to examine and settle the the Treasurers accounts & for other purposes have made the following report

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting.
The Committee to examine and settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes — Report

that they have attended to their appointment and find that the accounts have been correctly kept. The receipts have been duly acknowledged - and vouchers were produced for all payments - The balance now remaining in the Treasury is $504.07 The committee are united in recommending that no addition at Stock be raised for the coming year believing that the balance now on hand will be sufficient. -

They are also united in proposing Grace Bufjinton as Treasurer

On behalf of the Committe

Valentine Meader

Newberry 6th mo 13th 1859

Which being Considered was approved and Grace Buffinton and Grace Buffinton is accordly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the ensueing year

Adjourned to the 5th hour this afternoon

Afternoon, about the time adjourned to Friend again Convened

The Committee appointed yesterday morning to take into Consideration the subject of the two Communications both purporting to come from New York Yearly Meeting of Friends have made the following report— which reading was deferred

To the Yearly Meeting

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the two Communications purporting to come from New York Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Pelham Ridge have attended to that appointment, and earnestly sought for Divine help to guide them in their deliberations. The subject refered to them was felt to be one of very great importance, not only to the Yearly Meeting immediately interested, but also to the Society of Friends wherever located. It appears that a lamentable separation has taken place in that Yearly Meeting, brought in regard to the grounds upon which that

Separation was effected, or the manner in which it was brought about, our information is very imperfect. — On this account many members of the Committee could not see their way clear to recommend the reading of either of the Communications referred to them, or the recognition or dismissal of either of the bodies from which those Communications Emanated. Under a deep sense of the responsibility resting upon them, and desiring that Truth may in the end triumph over all her enemies, the Committee are united under the existing circumstances, in recommending that the whole subject be referred to our Meeting for Sufferings, with directions to give it that full and careful investigation which its importance seems to demand, and that they be requested to report to the Yearly Meeting next year

On behalf of the Committe

Valentine Meader
Mary Page

Newport 6mo 14 1859

Which having been deliberately considered was approved, the womens meeting concurring herein, and the Meeting for Sufferings are requested to agreeably with the recommendation of the committee to report their judgment in the case to this meeting next year.

The committee appointed to propose the names of suitable friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings have produced the following report

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed to propose the names of suitable friends to Constitute a Meeting for Suffering —— Report

That they have attended to that service and have concluded to propose the following named friends. Viz Isley Mitchell, Nathan Page, Francis Baker, Daniel Foster, William Hill, Benjamin Chandler, John Paddock, Benjamin Tucker, Israel Sutherton, James Austin, Ethan Foster, Thomas D. Wilbur, William Dolliver, Thomas C. Wilbur, John Kenyon, George C. Kenyon, Phillip Thrift, George M. Eddy —

George S. Reed. Harvey Chace Stephen Swift,
Allen Chace, Valentine Meader, Charles Perry
Levi Chace and Jesse Tucker

On behalf of the Committee

James Austin

Newport 6 mo 14 1859

Which being Considered is approved, and the
Friends therein named are accordingly appoint-
ed to Constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the
year ensuing

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow
morning

4th day morning the 15th Met according
to adjournment

The names of the Representatives being
called they were all present as at last Meeting
yesterday except one, whose absence at this
time is satisfactorily accounted for

The Committee appointed to prepare an
essay of an Epistle, if way should open for
it, to our friends of Baltimore Yearly Meet-
ing, have produced one at this time, which
being read and weightily Considered was ap-
proved, and the Clerk is directed to sign & for-
ward it on this Meetings behalf.

The Clerk is directed to make such necessary
extracts from our minutes as have not been
provided for and sign them on this Meetings
behalf.

The business of the Meeting having been
accomplished; we feel thankfully to acknowl-
edge, that although trials and discouragements
continue to assail us, we have been favoured
with a little of the Master's Good presence, in
which we have felt our spiritual strength
renewed; much tender and affectionate counsel
having also been imparted in the Life & Author-
ity of Truth, and we have been renewedly
confirmed, that if the Great Head of the Church
is alone looked unto, in uprightness and single-
ness of heart, he will continue to be to us

"Strength in weakness, Riches in poverty and a present help in the needful time" Under an humbling and solemnizing sense of which we conclude. Purposing if consistent with the Divine Will, to meet again at this place at the usual time next year.

Peleg Mitchell Clerk

Summary Answers to the Queries

Answer 1st All our Meetings for religious Worship & discipline have been held except one Preparative Meeting, the mid week Meetings in one particular Meeting and three for Worship, one of which was not held on account of sickness in friends families. That on first days by most friends, Mid week Meetings & some for discipline, not so well attended and a few are very remiss herein. The dress is neatly observed, Clear of unbecoming behaviour except sleeping, which is apparent in a few.

Ans — 2d — Love & Unity are generally maintained and Detraction guarded against, Our Monthly Meeting reports are in two exceptions and some deficiency is noticed in another. Where differences have arisen Endeavours have been used to end them.

Ans — 3 — Most friends appear to be careful to bring up their Children under their direction in plainness of speech, behaviour and apparel, to restrain them from pernicious reading and from the corrupt Conversation of the World, though not without some exception; They are for the most part good examples herein themselves. The Holy Scriptures are frequently read in friends families as far as appears.

Ans 4th Friends are careful to continue the use of Spirituous liquors & Vinicinal Purposes, with one exception in which some care has been taken. Taverns and other places of public resort do not appear to be frequented unnecessarily. Moderation and temperance appear to be generally observed.

1859

Answer 5th — The circumstances of the poor are attended to - Their Children partake of learning to fit them for business, and none are reported as having been placed out from among friends

Ans — 6th. Most Parents and heads of families are cautious that all proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to discipline the same of the young and unmarried are not sufficiently cautious herein three cases of marrying out of the order of society are reported, in two of which care has been taken.

Ans 7th — Same deficiency in relation to the payment of Priests wages is reported by one Quarter as existing in three of its Monthly Meetings, in one of which some care has been extended. No exceptions are reported in answer to the other part of this query

Ans — 8th — Friends are generally careful to respect their obligations and settle their accounts. They are punctual to their promises, just in the payment of their debts, and ought to live within the bounds of their circumstances with a few exceptions in all but one of which some care has been taken

Ans 9 — Marriages all recorded: Births & deaths mostly so. Three cases of removal without certificate are reported. one of which is under notice

Ans 10th Care appears to be taken in most cases to deal with offenders according to the query, yet in some instances great weakness and too much delay are apparent herein. Endeavours have been used to draw judgment in the authority of Truth according to our discipline.

From Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held at Rhode Island Commencing with Public Meetings for Worship at Newport on first-day the 10th of 6th mo 1860, and on second day morning the 11th of the same for Discipline.

By the accounts received from our several Quarterly Meetings we are informed they have appointed the following Friends to attend this Meeting as Representatives. Viz. from Rhode Island Miller Chace, Daniel Easter, Charles Perry, Levi Chase, Philip Thurston, Nancy Chase, John Wanton, Joseph Burton. From Salem Peter Eames, Nathan Page, William Hill, Jonathan Varney, Valentine Chandler & George Read. From Sandwich Benjamin Gardner, Asa Ritchell, Francis Taber Isaac Wilbur, John Broadbent, Jesse Tucker & George M Eddy, no other names being called, they were all present.

We have at this meeting the acceptable company of our Beloved Friend Caleb Gregg, with a satisfactory certificate from Lynn Monthly Meeting dated 4th mo 24th 1860 from Salem Quarterly Meeting held at Lynn the 21st of the same month, expressive of unity with his ministry and present religious engagements.

We have also the acceptable Company of our beloved friend Thomas Scattergood with satisfactory Certificate from Nottingham and Little Britain Monthly Meeting held the 11th of 5th mo 1860, and from Nottingham Quarterly Meeting held at Little Britain Lancaster County Pennsylvania, the 18th of the same, expressive of unity with his ministry and present religious engagements.

Acceptable Epistles from our beloved friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting held at Nottingham, & Salem Quarterly Meeting held at Iowa 19th of 2mo 1859 have been received and read to our edification & comfort & the following Friends Wm Reed, Valentine Meader, James Austin

1860
Comm

Jeremiah Foster — 3rd 4 Peleg Mitchell, Charles Perry, Israel Buffington, Thomas R Wilbur & Joseph Brinton to prepare essays & Epistles to those meetings if may: should a concern for it, & produce them at a future sitting

The following report from the Meeting for Sufferings having been introduced & read, and the subject having claimed the deliberate consideration of the meeting & a free expression of judgment having been given; the meeting did not appear to be united in acknowledging either body, at present, claiming to be a New York Yearly Meeting, as such.

Report — To the Yearly Meeting

The committee appointed in the 2d mo last in relation to the division in New York Yearly Meeting, and to whom was recommitted the report which was made to this meeting yesterday & presented the same in an abridged form, which this meeting could not unite in accept-ing, and it was concluded to adopt the following Viz

To a New England Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held on Rhode Island in the 6th month next

Dear Friends — The subject of the division in a New York Yearly Meeting referred to this meeting by minute of last year has claimed our serious and deliberate consideration, and we have endeavored to await ourselves of sufficient information by which through Divine assistance to come to a right conclusion in this important matter — But this meeting is not united in proposing to the Yearly Meeting to acknowledge as New York Yearly Meeting, either of the divisions claiming to be such, and the Clerk is directed to furnish the Yearly Meeting with a copy of this report

Extracted from the Minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings held by adjournment at New Bedford 4 mo 5 th 1860 George F Read Clerk

The Representatives are requested to consult together at the close of this sitting & agree upon the names of Friends to propose for the Service of Clerk and assistant Clerk, and report to ~~one~~ adjournment of this afternoon

Adjourned to the fifth hour this afternoon

afternoon, met pursuant to adjournment

Charles Perry, one [illegible] of the Representatives informed the meeting, that most of them had been together & were united in proposing Peleg Mitchell for the Clerk of this Meeting for the ensueing year, Valentine Mender for assistant Clerk, the names were severally considered & the proposition united with, & they are accordingly appointed to that service respectively for the year ensueing

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings were introduced at this time, & having been read, satisfaction was expressed therewith, & the appointt George H Read, Francis Taber, Moorey Chase, William Hill, Levi Gove, Samuel Shefield John Foster of Warwick, Charles Perry, Israel Buffinton to consider of a day before the Meeting at a future sitting, the names of suitable friends to Constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensueing year.

Jeremiah Foster and Moorey Chase of Rhode Island, Valentine Mender & Nathan Page of Salem, Dover, & Francis Taber, Jesse Tucker of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, are appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account, Conclude upon a Sum suitable for this meeting to raise for the ensueing year, and a Friend to propose as Treasurer, and Report thereon at a future sitting.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning

Third day morning the 12th Friends again assembled

The names of the Representatives being Called they were all present

1860
6mo



The State of Society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries with answers ~~thereto~~ from the several Quarterly Meetings, & a Summary thereof having been prepared, was also read & being approved, the Clerk is directed to place it upon Record.

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon

Afternoon, about the time adjourned to Friends again assembled

The Committee appointed yesterday to Consider of and propose the names of suitable Friends to Compose a Meeting for Sufferings, have now produced the following

To the Yearly Meeting

The Committee appointed to propose the names of suitable Friends to Constitute a Meeting for Sufferings, report the following viz — Peleg Mitchell, Nathan Page, Francis Taber, Ahmet Foster, William Hill, Benjamin Gardner, John Paddock, Israel Buffington, Jamet Austin, Ethan Foster, Thomas Wilbur, Jonas Wilbur, John T Kenyon, George C Kenyon, Philip Tabb, George H Eddy, George H Read, Harvey Chase, Stephen Smith, Miller Chase, Valentine Hoxie, Charles Perry, Levi Chase, Asa Tucker, Joseph Buffington, John Foster, of Warwick, & Jeremiah Foster

Signed on behalf of the Committee

Newport 6mo 12 1860 George H Read

After a time of Consideration (the name of Jeremiah Foster having been added by the meeting) they were approved, and are accordingly appointed to Constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensueing year.

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes have presented the following Report

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting The Committee appointed to examine and

1860 and settle the Treasurers account; and for other purposes
Report— That they have attended to their appointment and find that the accounts have been correctly kept, and Satisfactory vouchers have been produced for all of the payments made. The Committee deem it unnecessary to recommend the raising of additional stock for the current year the balance now in the Treasury being $322.77 and they are united in recommending the name of Israel Buffington jar Treasurer

On behalf of the Committee
Francis Taber

Fifth mo 12th 1860

Which having been considered was approved and Israel Buffington is accordingly appointed Treasurer at this Meeting for the year ensuing.

Adjourned to the 10th Hour tomorrow morning

Fourth day morning the 13 met pursuant to adjournment

The names of the Representatives having been called they were all present

Essays of Epistles to our beloved Friends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting held at Fallsington, and to Salem Quarterly Meeting Iowa, having been laid before the meeting by the Committee appointed for that service on second day morning, and having been read, were approved, and the Clerk is directed to sign and forward them

The following Minutes prepared in behalf of our friends Caleb Cregg & Thomas Lamborn, having been read, the Clerk is left at liberty to sign them on this meeting behalf & furnish them with Copies thereof as they relate to each respectively

Our beloved Friend Caleb Cregg has attended this meeting with a Satisfactory Certificate from Linn Monthly Meeting Iowa held 5th mo 26th 1860, and from Salem Quarterly Meeting held at Linn the 21st of the same month expressing unity with his ministry and present religious engagements. His Communications and Gospel labors have been acceptable and edifying & the Clerk has been directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute & sign it on our behalf.

Our beloved friend Thomas Lamborn has attended this meeting, with a satisfactory Certificate from Nottingham & Little Britain Monthly Meeting held the 11th of 5 mo: 1860 and from Nottingham Quarterly Meeting held at Little Britain Lancaster County Pennsylvania the 18th of the same, expressing unity with this ministry & present relations engagements, this Company & Gospel labors have been acceptable & edifying. The Clerk is directed to furnish him with a Copy of this minute

The Clerk is directed to make such further extracts from our minutes as may be necessary & which have not already been provided for & sign them on this meetings behalf

The business of the meeting, having now been accomplished, we feel to acknowledge that as the discouragements have at times assailed us & our enemies has been Hot & Sack Cloth, yet in Condescending Goodness we have ~~at times~~ been favored with Streams of refreshment from His Holy Sanctuary to the Contrite & many hearts, & with humble thanksgivings for the least of His favors, we Conclude, purposing if Consistent with the Divine will, to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year.

Rhoda Mitchell Clerk

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## Summary Answers to the Queries

Answer 1st. All our Meetings for Religious worship and discipline have been held with the exception of the midweek Meetings of one particular Meeting belonging to Yearwich Quarter and two Meetings for worship in one Monthly Meeting within the limits of Rhode Island Quarter. The attendance appears to have been too much neglected by a few particularly on the middle of the week. The hour is nearly observed, mostly clear of other unbecoming behaviour except a few instances ~~of~~ of sleeping

Ans. 2d Love and unity are maintained generally amongst us, and detraction appears to be guarded against Endeavors have been used to end differences when they have appeared

3d Answer — 1st Friends generally evince a Care to bring up those under their direction in Plainness of Speech behaviour and apparel, to restrain them from vexatious suits, and from Corrupt Communication, yet more Care in these respects seems necessary. They appear to be expensively herein themselves and the Holy Scriptures to be frequently read in their families. —

1866
6 mo

Answer 4th Friends are Careful to avoid the use of Spirituous Liquors except for medicinal purposes with one exception which is under notice. They are mostly Careful to avoid frequenting places of public resort unnecessarily, and appear to observe moderation and temperance in the several occasions referred to.

Answer 5th The circumstances of the poor are attended to. Their children freely partake of learning. None have been placed out from among Friends

Answer 6th Friends are mostly Careful that all proceedings in respect to marriage be Conformable to discipline — One case of marrying out is reported which is under notice.

Answer 7th — Some exceptions are reported in one Meeting, a few having a limited meeting where a Gospel ministry is employed. — Clear in regard to the other parts of this query

Answer 8th — There are a few instances reported of neglect in the timely settlement of accounts, Friends are mostly Careful in regard to the payment of their debts, and in the other parts of this query.

Answer 9th — Mostly Careful with regard to records & the removal of one family without a Certificate is reported

Answer 10th. Some Care appears to be taken to deal with offenders in the spirit of meekness and wisdom, but tenderness and delay in timely dealing are in some instances apparent amongst us.

A Concern is manifested to place Judgment according to discipline.

the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Rhode Island Commencing with public Meetings for Worship at Newport on first day the 11th of 6th mo 1861 & on second day morning the 12th of the same for discipline

Accounts having been received from our several Quarterly Meetings, the Friends therein named to attend this meeting as Representatives, are — From Rhode Island, Obadiah Easter, Warren Chase, Israel Buffington, Miller Chase, John Wanton, Levi Chase & Samuel Shedd — From Salem Daniel Nathan Page, William Hill, Valentine Meader & George W Read — From Sandwich — Thomas R Wilbur, Francis Taber, James Austin, Peleg Mitchell & Jesse Tucker, whose names being called, they were all present and answered thereto

We have been informed by the accounts from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that they had united with Nantucket Monthly Meeting & their womens Meeting, in a proposition from Nantucket Nantucket Meeting, for the appointment of Mary W Austin & the station of an Elder

The Representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting & agree upon the names of suitable Friends to propose for Clerk & assistant Clerk, & report them to the meeting this afternoon

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met pursuant to adjournment

Nathan Page on behalf of the Committee appointed by the several Monthly Meetings Representatives reported that the most of them had been together and concluded to propose Peleg Mitchell for the Clerk of this meeting, and Valentine Meader for assistant Clerk, the names were separately considered, & the proposition united with, & the Friends were accordingly appointed to those services respectively for the year ensuing

An Epistle from our beloved Friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, has been received

1860
bmo

and read at this time 3/11 to our Comfort & edification — and we appoint our friend George H Reed, James Austin, Francis Taber, Joseph Brinton, George M Eddy & Harvey Chase to prepare an essay of an Epistle to that Meeting if way should open for it; & produce it at a future sitting.

We appoint our friend Jeremiah Taber & Jacob Brinton of Rhode Island, George H Reed & Valentine Meader of Salem & Taber, & Isaac P Wilbur & Francis Taber of Vassalboro Quarterly Meeting, to examine & settle the Treasurers account, Conclude upon a suitable amount for the meeting to raise if necessary, and a friend to propose a Treasurer & report to a future sitting

Adjourned to the 10th Inst tomorrow morning

3d day morning the 12th met pursuant to adjournment

The names of the Representatives being called they were all present

The Committee appointed to examine & settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes have made the following report.

To the Yearly Meeting

The Committee to examine & settle the Treasurers account, and for other purposes Report — That they have attended to that service and find that the books have been correctly kept. Satisfactory vouchers were produced for all payments made by the Treasurer, and the balance now in his hands appears to be Two Hundred and two dollars and seventy Cents.

The Committee are united in recommending that no additional stock be raised by the meeting at this time, believing that the amount now in the Treasury with the current receipts, will be sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of the year. They are also united in proposing Israel Buffington as Treasurer

On behalf of the Committee

Valentine Meader

Newport 12mo 12th 1861

1761
June



Which being Considered was approved & Isaac Buffington, was accordingly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the year ensuing or until another appointment

The State of Society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries with answers thereto from our several Quarterly Meetings, and a Summary having been prepared, was also read and being approved the Clerk is directed to place it upon record — Under the solemnity which appeared to cover the meeting on this occasion, Gasper Tuth ~~[illegible]~~ touching the welfare of the Church, flowed freely & livingly amongst us.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon

— afternoon, & met the time adjourned to. Friends again assembled

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been laid before the meeting at this time were read & on being Considered were approved & Benjamin Tucker, Valentine Meader, Charles Perry, Samuel Shelfield, James Austin, George M Eddy, Francis Taber & William Hill are appointed a Committee to Consider of & lay before the Meeting at a future sitting, the names of suitable Friends to Constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning

4th day morning the 19. met according to adjournment

The names of the Representatives being called they were all present

The Committee appointed to Consider of and propose the names of suitable friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings have produced the following report—

Report — The Committee appointed to propose the names of suitable friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, report the following — Nathan Page, Thomas Foster, Thomas R Hilton, Peleg Mitchell, William Hill, Charles Perry, Josiah Tucker, James Austin, Valentine Meader

1861
6-mo

Israel Buffington, George Reed, Ethan Foster
Samuel Sheffield, Benjamin Gardner, Stephen
Swift, Asa C Hilton, Varney Chace, George C
Kenyon, Joseph Brinton, John Kenyon, Isaac
Eddy, John Foster of Warwick, Isaac Hilton,
Jeremiah Foster & Levi Chase

An abstract of the Committee

Charles Peery

Newport 6 mo 19th 1861

And the friends herein named are accordingly appointed to Constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year

Joseph Brinton, one of the Committee aforesaid to prepare an essay of an Epistle to Baltimore Yearly Meeting of Friends if any should appear it Reported in substance, that the Subject had claimed their weighty and serious Consideration & tho it did appear that there was a language of the Spirit to the Church in that land, yet the way do closed up as to any action upon it, that they thought it prudent to move forward in the service.

The business brought before us having been acted upon and disposed of the meeting Concluded, purposing if Consistent with the Divine will to meet again at the usual time on this Island next year

Signed Mitchell Clerk

Summary Answers

Answer 1st — With the exception of one Monthly Meeting, five Preparative Meetings and one Meeting for Worship, in one Quarter, and some of the Mid week Meetings in another — All our Meetings for religious worship and discipline have been attended these cold days by most Friends of suitable health — Mid week Meetings and some for discipline not so well attended. The town mostly observed. A few instances of sleeping in which some care has been taken — No other unbecoming behavior noticed.

Ans 2d Love and unity above to be generally maintained & such reported as deserving to some extent in two of our Quarterly Meetings — Detraction is mostly

guarded against = With one exception, when differences have arisen endeavors have been used to end them.

Ans 3d. Concern appears to rest on the minds of most Friends to bring up their under their direction in plainness of speech, behaviour & apparel, to refrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt Conversation. They are in good degree exemplary therein themselves, and the Holy Scriptures are believed to be frequently read in most of their families

Ans 4th Friends appear to be generally careful in the several parts of this Query.

Ans 5th The circumstances of the poor have been attended to & their necessities relieved when needful, their children freely partake of learning. - None appear to have been placed out from among Friends.

Ans 6th Parents and heads of families appear to be careful in these respects, but among the young and unmarried it is feared too little attention is paid thereto, and one instance of marrying out of the order Society is reported

Ans 7th Our testimonies appear to be faithfully maintained by most Friends in relation to the several parts of this query; but a few of the young Friends of our Monthly Meeting are reproved at all times attending meeting, whom they have no hired Ministry, and some of them are favoring the Military movements of the day.

Ans 8th - Friends appear to be generally careful in the several parts of this query

Ans 9th Care appears to be taken in most cases in regard to Records - One Case of removal without Certificate in our Quarterly Meeting and three in another - which is under Watch care.

Ans 10th A good degree of care appears to be taken to deal with offenders according to the query but not without delay in some instances. Endeavors have been used to place judgment in the authority of Truth according to discipline.

New England and ~~x x x x x x~~ on Rhode Island by commencing with Public meetings for worship at Newport on first day the 13 th of June 1762 & on second day morning the 16 th of the same for discipline

Accounts having been received from our several Quarterly Meetings, the Friends therein named to attend this meeting as representatives are, from Rhode Island & Misc. Foster, Ethan Foster, Charles Perry, Levi Thurston Israel Buffington, Philip Thip, John Foster of Warwick, Joseph Brinton and John ~~x~~ Kenyon from Salem & Dover Nathan Page, Wel. liam Hall, George ~~x~~ Reed, & Valentine Hend. ers. from Sandwich James Austin, Thom. as & Wilbur, Francis Taber, Jesse Tucker, Ely Mitchell & John Boadle, the whole names being called they were all present.

By the accounts from Salem & Dover Quarterly Meeting we are informed that they have united with Berwick Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Mary ~~x~~ to come to the station of an Elder

An Epistle from our beloved friends at Baltimore Yearly Meeting having been received, was read at this time to our Satisfaction & edification, & we appoint our friends George ~~x~~ Reed Ely Mitchell, Joseph Brinton & James Austin to prepare an essay of an Epistle to that Meeting if way should open for it, & produce it at a future sitting a sitting

We appoint our friends Charles Perry & Jeremiah Foster from Rhode Island, Valentine Hender & George ~~x~~ Reed from Salem & Dover & George ~~x~~ Eddy & Jesse Tucker from Sandwich, Quarterly Meetings, to examine & settle the Treasurers account, Consider of a sum sutable for the meeting to raise if any be necessary & the name of a friend to serve the Meeting as Treasurer & report to a future sitting

Peleg Mitchell, George L. Reed & James Austin are appointed to prepare a Summary of the answers to the Queries from our several Quarters, & produce it at the next sitting of this meeting

The Representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this meeting & agree upon the names of suitable Friends for Clerk & Assistant Clerk & to bring in the ~~meeting this afternoon~~ sitting this afternoon

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon

Afternoon, met pursuant to adjournment

Charles Perry on behalf of the Representatives reported, that most of them had been together & were united in proposing Peleg Mitchell for the Clerk of this Meeting and Valentine Mender for assistant Clerk. The names were separately considered & united with & they were accordingly appointed to those services respectively for the year ensuing.

The state of society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries with answers thereto from our several Quarterly Meetings, a Summary thereof having been prepared, by the Friends appointed to that Service this morning, was also read, & being approved, the Clerk is directed to place it upon Record.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning.

3d day morning the 17th Friends again assembled—

The names of the Representatives being called they were all present

The Meeting having been engaged in the consideration of a subject, connected with the welfare of our religious society, & which has not been fully concluded, it is referred to our sitting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon

Afternoon met pursuant to Adjournment

1862
Jan.

A Copy of a minute from the General Meeting of Ministers and Elders of Friends for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware &c, held at Wrightstown Bucks County Pennsylvania, having been laid before this meeting, after a time of deliberate consideration was read, Approved with an Epistle issued sometime previous addressed to the members of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow Morning

9th day Morning the 18th met pursuant to Adjournment

The names of the representatives having been called they were all present

An essay of an Epistle to our Beloved Friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting having been prepared by the Committee appointed to that service on Second day morning, was introduced & read at this time, & being approved the Clerk is directed to sign it on our behalf & forward it to that Meeting

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account & for other purposes as expressed in a former minute, have produced the following Report.

Report

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.— The Committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers accounts and for other purposes, Report that they have attended to their appointment, and find the accounts neatly kept, with proper vouchers for the payments made during the past year — The balance in the Treasurers hands is one hundred eight dollars fifty cents. — The Committee are united in the Conclusion that it will not be necessary to raise any additional stock for the present year & also in proposing Israel Buffington for Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting for the ensuing year

On behalf of the Committee, Thos. S. Penn

Wrightstown 11th 1862

Which being considered was united with and Israel Buffington is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the year ensuing or until another appointment.

1862
Cono



The Report of the Meeting for Sufferings having been laid before the Meeting at this time was read & deliberate consideration was had thereon, & Thomas Taber, Valentine Hoxie, Philip Gray, Benjamin Buffington, Hannah Chace, John H Haskell, Isaac Wilbur & Charles Percy are appointed to consider & report to the next Sitting a list of the names of suitable friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year

Adjourned to the 3 o'clock this afternoon

Afternoon Friends again assembled

The Committee appointed this morning to ~~conduct~~ report to the Meeting the names of suitable friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings, have produced the following report

To the Yearly Meeting

The Committee appointed to consider of and propose the names of suitable persons to compose a Meeting for Sufferings have attended to their appointment and are united in proposing the following Friends Viz

Peleg Mitchell, Obediah Foster, Nathan Lee, Thomas R Wilbur, William Hill, James Austin, George F Reed, Stephen Sweet, Daniel Taber, Valentine Hoxie, Asher Tucker, George C Hanson, Levi Chase, Ethan Foster, Charles Percy, Jeremiah Foster, Isaac Hicks, Israel Buffington, John Foster of Warwick, Joseph Brinton, John H Kenyon, John Paddock, George H Eddy, Isaac P Wilbur & John H Foster.

On behalf of the Committee

Newport Cono 18th 1862 Valentine Hoxie

The persons therein named are accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing.

The business introduced to the meeting having been acted upon and accomplished, we conclude, purposing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year, if consistent with the Divine will

Peleg Mitchell Clerk

Summary Answers to the Queries — 6 mo 1862

1st — All our Meetings both for Wor[illegible] and discipline have been held, with the exception of four meetings in one Quarterly Meeting, one of which was a Preparative Meeting not held, and the mid week Meeting of one particular Meeting in unity. Friends generally are diligent in the attendance of our Meetings, particularly in one of the Quarters. The law is mostly observed. Mostly clear of unbecoming behaviour, a few appearances of sleeping excepted.

2d Love and unity are generally well maintained, except in one Particular Meeting, which informs us, that there are exceptions in three of their accounts, and differences are existing in three their monthly Meetings. Detraction mostly guarded against — Some Care Taken

3d Friends appear to be generally careful to visit such under their direction in plainness, as queried after, to restrain them from pernicious Evil, and guard them the Contrary conversation of the world. They are mostly assembled herein thankfully and are believed the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their families, yet there is a want of that living Concern in some, which might prove beneficial in restraining the erring youth.

4th Friends are Cautious to Continue the use of Spirituous Liquors to medicinal purposes, and are mostly Careful as to the unnecessary frequenting of Taverns and Inns of Public resort. Moderation and temperance are generally observed in the ~~occasions~~ Liquor Cases referred to in the Query

5th Clear in the general part of this query except one Case of Strife and Variance amongst Friends

6th Friends appear to be generally careful that all proceedings with respect to marriage be consonable to our Discipline, with the exception of one Case of marrying out of the order of our Society, which has been attended to

7th Five of our Quarterly Meetings appear to be clear in three respects. The other one informs us, that one account states that some members attend meetings, where a teaching ministry is employed

1862
6 mo



and another account mention one instance of a like nature. There is also some exception in one account in respect to Military exhibitions.

8th Friends appear to be generally careful to inspect their affairs and settle their ~~debts~~ accounts and must be punctual to their promises and just in the payment of their debts, and careful to live within the bounds of their Circumstances

9th Marriages are recorded, Births & Deaths most. Two Removals without Certificates some care has been taken

10th Friends Manifest a good degree of care in dealing with offenders as observed after, yet one's timely attention to appears wanting in some instances. } We believe Friends endeavor to pass judgment when it appears necessary according to discipline

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, [illegible] and Select Meetings for Worship at Newport on First day the 14th of Sixth Month, 1863 and on Second-day morning the 15th of the same for Discipline.

By accounts received from our respective Quarterly Meetings, it appears the following Friends [illegible] to attend this meeting as appointed, Namely, From Rhode Island Obadiah Foster, [illegible] Ethan Foster, Joseph Brinton Levi Chase, Charles Peery [illegible] From Salem and Dover, William Hill, Nathan Page Levi Gove, George F Read and Valentine Meader From Sandwich, Thomas K. Wilbur, Gorham Nussey, George W Eddy, Francis Tabor, Peleg Mitchell and [illegible] were all present but one.

A Savory Epistle from our Beloved Friends of [illegible] was read to our Satisfaction and Comfort.

An Epistle has also been received from the General Meeting of Men and Women Friends, held at [illegible] Pennsylvania, [illegible] New Jersey, [illegible] &c, which has been read to our Satisfaction and comfort.

The Representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this Meeting, and report to the adjournment the name of a suitable Friend for Clerk, and Recorder for Assistant Clerk for the year ensuing.

Adjourned to the Forenoon from this afternoon.

[illegible] afternoon, and [illegible]

Charles Peery, on behalf of the representatives,

reported that they had conferred togethr. and were unable to agree [illegible] to the Meeting as Clerk and Assistant Clerk: and therefor the late Clerk and Assistant Clerk. according to common usage in such cases are continued. to serve the meeting for the year ensuing.

A Subject connected with the welfare of our Religious Society; having claimed the consideration of this Meeting, and much time having been spent thereon without coming to a final result. it is referred for further consideration to our next Sitting.

Adjourned to the 5th [illegible] Morning

Third day Morning the 16th met according to adjournment.

The names of the Representatives having been called. they were all present but one.

The consideration of an Epistle from a Meeting [illegible] to Friends, Pardoning of Friends, [illegible] attention, postponed afternoon, and was referred by minute to this Sitting. having again been entered upon. after a considerable time Spent therein it appeared evident that Friends, could not be united in its acceptance at this time.

At this Stage of proceeding, the Clerk Stated that in his judgment the condition of the Meeting was such, that he felt the time had come when he could not, consistently, with his conscientious convictions, act longer as its Clerk.

His resignation was accepted and the Assistant Clerk requested to make a minute embracing those facts;

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon

[illegible] adjourned to [illegible]

The names of the Representatives being called.

Perry of Rhode Island. Sevr Gove and William Hill of Salem and Dover and George M Eddy and Jesse Tucker of Sandwich Quarterly Meetings to examine and settle the accounts of the Treasurer of this Meeting. conclude upon a suitable Sum to be raised. if any. for the Service of the Meeting. and to propose a Friend for Treasurer. and report at a future sitting

Ethan Foster. Isaac P. Wilbur and Charles Perry are appointed to prepare a Summary of the Answers to the Queries, received from our Quarterly Meetings. and present it at our next sitting.

We appoint our friends Charles Perry. William Hill. Amos C. Wilbur. Francis Taber and Thomas M. Wilbur to prepare a minute on the subject of Correspondence with other Bodies of Friends; and they are left at liberty, if they should think for it in the Truth. to prepare Essays of Epistles to Particular Yearly, Quarterly, or Monthly Meetings

Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends. held at Falsington. and produce them at a future Sitting

Adjourned to the 10th. from tomorrow Morning

Fourth day Morning the 17th. Friends again assembled.

The Queries of the Meeting for Sufferings were laid before this Meeting and being fully considered. they were approved.

The large number of Friends at present required by our Discipline to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings

3? 4

1863

Society, after a time of deliberation thereon, it is agreed that our Discipline in that respect be so far altered as to provide that not less than fifteen members shall compose that meeting, and that at least seven mem=

bers [illegible] to [illegible] Meeting [illegible] and the [illegible] is directed to forward [illegible] Meetings with a copy of this Minute.

[illegible] to consider of and report to our next sitting, the names of suitable friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing.

The State of Society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries, together with the answers thereto, received from our several Quarterly Meetings, and a Summary thereof having been prepared by our friends, appointed to that service, was also read, and being approved, the Clerk [illegible].

The Committee appointed at our last Sitting [illegible] report

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee to examine and settle the Treasurer's account, and for other purposes, report, that the Accounts correctly Kept; We find a Balance of Six dollars and 75 cents due the Treasurer; [illegible] for Treasurer.

On behalf of the Committee

Signed, 6th mo. 16th 1863. [illegible]

Which was read and approved, and George M. Eddy

is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the ensueing year, desire our Several Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward to him their respective proportions of One Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars, the Sum Recommended to be raised at this Meeting, that the proportion of Abington Quarterly Meeting may Amount to Fifty Seven Dollars, that of Salem Quarterly Meeting Fifty Seven Dollars, and that of Rahway Quarterly Meeting Fifty Seven Dollars, and the Clerk is directed to forward to the Meetings respectively, with a Copy of this Minute.

Referred to the Second Session of this Meeting.

Afternoon, Met according to adjournment,

A Committee appointed this morning to propose the names of Suitable Friends to Compose a Meeting for Sufferings have prepared the following

Othniel Foster, Thomas K Wilbur, William Hill, Francis Taber, John T Kenyon, Valentine Meader, Amos C Wilbur, Charles Perry, Ethan Foster, Jesse Tucker, Isaac T. [illegible], George M Eddy, Thomas [illegible], [illegible], [illegible],

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1863

And now. though trials beset us. and afflic=
tions for which we were unprepared have been per=
mitted to come upon us— though we have been "cast
down" and "fretted", and have labored under many
and great discouragments; yet. having been Merci=
fully favored to act upon and dispose of the business
that has been brought before us with some degree of
satisfaction and comfort. We conclude, to appoint
a yearly meeting to be held at the usual time next
year. if consistent with the Divine will

Valentine Meader
Asistant Clerk

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Answers to the Queries

Answer 1st In Meetings for Religious Worship and Discipline have
been duly attended to; as usually, to attend with
the exception of seven in our Quarter including our preparative
Meeting which were not a hundred, and five Meetings for Worship
in our Quarter, not held on account of sickness— and also
the meetings in the Middle of the week in one particular Meeting,
Some deficiency is mentioned in all the accounts, in the attend=
ance of our meetings on the point of Sound. Two accounts referring
particularly to those in the Middle of the week and some for
Discipline. The former generally small, still observed.
Some appearance of sleeping is reported. Of other unbe=
coming behaviour small, also.

Answer 2d All the accounts state that Love and Unity are in a good de=
gree maintained, though in a few instances, evidently too much
wanting. Detraction appears, to be mostly guarded against.
Some care taken to end differences

Answer 3d Friends appear to be generally careful to bring up their child=
dren in a right direction in plainness of Speech. behaviour and apparel,
and to restrain them from reading pernicious books, and from
the corrupt conversation of the World, and appear to be mostly ex=
emplary. Elementary Books, the Holy Scriptures, appear to be
frequently read in most Friends' families

Answ 4th Friends appear to be careful to confine the use of Spirituous Liquors to Medicine, and are mostly careful as to the unnecessary Frequenting of Taverns and Places of public resort. [illegible] according to the query 1863

Answ 5th [illegible] Spirit of Learning. One case of placing out from among Friends is reported,

Answ 6th Parents and Heads of Families appear to be mostly careful that all procedings with respect to marriage be conformable to our Discipline The young and unmarried not all so careful as would be best.

Answ 7th Friends generally bear a faithful testimony against the payment of Priests wages, although in one account there is an exception in respect to a few of the younger members attending where there is a hired ministry, and that some of these favor the Military [illegible] of the day. One [illegible] In one account is signed to Military Roll, which is under care. Another account mentions two cases wherein our testimony against War has not been maintained, in which care has been taken.

Answ 8th As far as known Friends are careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts, to be punctual to their promises, just in the payment of their debts, and to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

Answ 9th Generally careful as to records. Six cases of removal without Certificate, are reported.

Answ 10th Some care has been taken to deal with offenders, in a good degree as queried, and to pass judgment, where it appears necessary according to Discipline, but it is apprehended that Friends are not sufficiently alive to this important concern, as would be best

1864

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, commencing with Public Meetings [illegible] of the same, for discipline.

Accounts have been received from our Several Particular Meetings. by which it appears that the following [illegible] appointed to attend this Meeting [illegible] Foster, Miller Crase, William F. Wood, Charles Perry, Henry Grace and John T. Kenyon, from Salem and Dover, William Hill, Valentine Macomber and George Tawney, from Vandewier Thomas K Wilbur, Stephen Swift, Jesse Tucker, John Roadle and George W. Eddy, who were duly [illegible] all present and answered thereto.

[illegible] the reception of extracts from the minutes of this Meeting last year, and also inform that their respective Treasurers have paid, or been directed to pay their proportion [illegible]

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting informs, that [illegible] in the appointment of Charles Perry, Ethan Foster [illegible]

In consequence of the changes which have recently taken place therein, Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting has requested that the time of holding the Sessions in the Fifth Month, and from Newport to a time of deliberation, is united with, the Women's

1864

Salem and Dover Quarterly Meeting informs that in consequence of the withdrawal of a considerable number of the members from the Meeting in Salem, and [illegible] to hold a Quarterly Meeting longer at that place, and [illegible] ing that Quarterly Meeting be changed from Salem in the Sixth Month, to North Berwick on the Fourth Fifth-day in the Fourth Month, at the usual hour, [illegible] Friend. Both by this and our Women's Quarterly Meeting.

Ethan Foster, John Boadle and Valentine Hayden are appointed a committee to prepare a Summary of the Answers to the Queries and produce it at a future sitting.

A paper having been laid upon the table, [illegible] Friends held at Pohlan Ridge, Signed by John A. Potter [illegible] friends Ethan Foster, George Weeks, William Hall, Henry Chace, Phillip Tripp and Valentine Meader, to examine and consider the same, and report to a future sitting whether in their judgment it is expedient

The Representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting, and agree upon the name of a suitable Friend to serve this Meeting the same at the opening of the meeting this afternoon

Adjourned to the usual time this afternoon.

Whereas, Near the time adjourned to, Friends again convened.

Informed that the Yearly Meeting Committee appointed to [illegible] Valentine Meader for Dover and Charles Perry

1864

for Assistant Clerks, whose names having been Separately considered, the proposition was united with, and they are accordingly appointed to those services respectively for the year ensuing.

We have received at this time from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, the following report from a Committee appointed by that Meeting, in addition to the proceedings of the Clerk thereof and some others associated with him, at the Quarterly Meeting held at Nantucket in the 9th and 10th months of last year, namely,

To Sandwich Quarterly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends!

The representatives, appointed as a Committee by the Quarterly Meeting in the Twelfth Month last, to prepare a Statement of some transactions at the Seventh and Tenth Months, now Report,

That the Clerk opened the Meeting in the Seventh Month by the acknowledgement of the Representatives from Nantucket only, and made a Minute stating, in substance that in consequence of the Clerks of New Bedford and Dartmouth Monthly Meetings, having identified themselves with a body out of the truth, the Quarterly Meeting could not acknowledge [illegible] the members of said Meetings, or consider them [illegible]. This declaration appeared to be made by the Clerk as being the judgment of the Meeting, without any previous allusion having been made to the subject, [illegible] summarily, two entire Monthly Meetings, and their members from the Society, for the sole reason that the two Clerks had, as he without cause alleged, identified themselves, as aforesaid. The Clerk of the Quarterly Meeting also rejected the [illegible] Women's Quarterly Meeting, thereby [illegible]

several Quarterly Meetings, and also a report of the representations on the State of the Finances of the Quarterly Meeting &c. usually presented at that time. She likewise rejected the report from the Committee to [illegible] directed by minute of appointment to report at some time

It may be proper to state here, that but one member of the Quarterly Meeting expressed unity with the Clerk in the course pursued, which friend was one of the [illegible] and a few other friends with the late Yearly Meeting, and assembled by [illegible]

In the course of the Meeting a communication was [illegible] from emanated from the aforesaid Separate Meeting.

"At the Quarterly Meeting in [the] Tenth Month [illegible] the representatives from Nantucket had been together, and had concluded to propose Peleg Mitchell as Clerk, being expressed therewith; on the contrary some friends stated it to be an unusual and improper mode of proceeding, as it was always first in order for the Assistant Clerk to open the Meeting, before any appointment was made. [illegible] ing the records of the Meeting in possession, persisted in making his own minute of appointment, after which [illegible]

1864

Penfield as Clerk pro tem. and proceeded therein pro-
in relation to the accounts from those Meetings.

Friends promptly protested against the course
here pursued by Peleg Mitchell, believing it to be entirely
subversive of right order, and, inasmuch as it did
not receive the expressed sanction of any Friend present,
it appeared to them to be a clear case of assumption of

power by Friends.

Near the close of the last mentioned Meeting
Peleg Mitchell introduced and favored a proposition
for changing the place of holding the succeeding
Quarterly Meeting, in order to its being, as stated, more
select. This resulted in his making a minute of
adjournment to meet next at Nantucket, in the
Twelfth Month, instead of New Bedford, where it
has been usual for us to meet, as directed by our
Yearly Meeting, on its records, and in the Book of
Discipline. This direction of Discipline was not
needed, although directly referred to by Friends, at
the time.

In view of the aforesaid disorderly proceedings, and
believing that they were chiefly, if not wholly, attributable
to the acts of the said Friends, [illegible]
said Meetings, and thereby [illegible]
manifested their insubordination to our discipline and to the
Yearly Meeting, from which they had also previously separa-
ted, and with which they refused to unite, [illegible]
[illegible] Meeting, [illegible]
at those Meetings, which affect the rights of subordinate
meetings or their members, as also that of changing the place
[illegible] Quarterly, [illegible]
and adjourned Meetings, [illegible]

All of which the Committee submit to the Quarterly
Meeting. On behalf of the Representatives,

Wm. Boardle.

and after a time of deliberation thereon, it is the sense and judgment of this meeting, that the proceedings recorded therein are disorderly and contrary to the provisions of our discipline, and that, so far as they relate to the rights or duties of meetings or the individual members thereof, they are void and of no effect. And that Quarterly Meeting having requested that the place of holding said Meeting [illegible] Nantucket to New Bedford, this meeting is united in granting their request, and it is directed that that Meeting hereafter be held, the Women's Quarterly Meeting concurring herein.

We appoint our friends Ethan Foster and Harvey Chace of Rhode Island, George Varney and [illegible] and propose [illegible] Julius Sitling.

Ethan Foster on behalf of the Committee appointed the morning, the minutes of the proceedings of the preceding [illegible] of Friends reported that they were united in [illegible] and that it was [illegible] time, which is satisfactory to the meeting.

[illegible]

Second-day Morning the 14th, met according to adjournment

The names of the Representatives being called, they were all present.

The State of Society was entered upon by the reading [illegible] having been prepared by the Committee appointed for that

[illegible] purpose at a previous sitting, and laid before the meeting, [illegible] recorded.

During the time occupied by the meeting in the consideration of the State of Society, Friends were brought into painful exercise in consequence of the many deficiencies exhibited in the answers to several of the queries, and a living concern was felt and expressed that all our members may endeavor to manifest that plainness and simplicity in dress and address which well befits the [illegible] adornments of the outward man, and a conformity to the world. For that peace which it can neither give nor take away.

Allusion was also made to the deficiencies reported [illegible] among [illegible] Keeps. Should they be drafted under the conscription laws [illegible] ings may be in store for them, - maintaining the integrity - in the certain assurance that He whose blessed cause they thus seek to promote in the earth, will [illegible] sufferings for good.

The Committee appointed yesterday afternoon, to examine and settle the Treasurer's account, concluded upon a suitable sum to be raised for the expenses [illegible] nearly closing "now sitting"

"The Committee to examine and settle the Treasurer's Account and for other purposes. Report, "that they have attended to their appointment, and find "the Accounts to have been correctly Kept. They find a [illegible]

appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the ensuing year, and our several Quarterly Meetings are requested to pay to him their respective proportions of Fifty Dollars, the Sum concluded upon to be raised, and the Clerk is directed to forward them Quarterly, with a Copy of this minute.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been laid before this Meeting at this time, and that action in the important concerns that have claimed their attention, approved, and our Friends Ethan Foster, William Hill, Thomas K. Wilbur, John F. Kenyon, Asa Eddy, Isaac P. Wilbur, Charles Perry, and Jesse Tucker appointed a Committee to report a list of Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, met according to adjournment.

The Committee appointed at our last Sitting, to bring in the names of Suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings, presented the following report, which being considered, was united with, and is as follows, viz:

"Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings, Thomas K. Wilbur, Thomas Hoyle, Thomas C. Wilbur, William Hill, Thomas Peckham, John F. Kenyon, Nathaniel Greene, Amos C. Wilbur, Charles Perry, Ethan Foster, Jesse Tucker, Isaac P. Wilbur, Henry Clarke, Asa M. Eddy, Thomas Perry, Samuel Sheffield, John W. Foster, Jeremiah Foster, Daniel Hudson, Clerk."

[illegible] satisfactory to the meeting, and the Trustees thereof are accordingly authorized to unite with a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing.

It appearing to this Meeting that a Vacancy has been made in the Board of the Fund belonging to this meeting, under the Will of our late Friend Othniel Tripp; in pursuance of Minute of Friends William Hill, Harvey Chace, Thos. Mc Cleave, and Daniel S. Gibbs, to consider of and report to a future Sitting, the Name of a Suitable Friend to be appointed as the successor of Israel Buffinton in that trust.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning.

Fourth-day morning, the fifteenth. Friends again assembled.

The names of the representatives being called they were present as first taken, and answered thereto.

The Committee appointed at our last sitting, to [illegible] the name of a suitable Friend to be the Trustee of Friends Property in lieu of the Trustee of the United High Land Bank deceased, [illegible] report,

"To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

"The Committee appointed to propose a Friend as Trustee of the Othniel Tripp Fund, in place of Israel Buffinton, are united in proposing Harvey Chace of Tiverton, R. I. as that person and Trustee, and he is submitted to the Yearly Meeting"

"Signed on behalf of the Committee

"Newport, 6 mo. 14, 1864." "William Hill"

which is approved by the meeting and Harvey Chace, appointed to that position and station, and the Clerk is directed to furnish the Trustees with a Copy of this minute to be placed upon their records.

The Trustees of the Othniel Tripp Fund attached to this meeting by our late Friend Othniel Tripp, having represented [illegible] from the Yearly Meeting [illegible]

We appoint our friends Jesse Tucker, Charles Perry,
[illegible], to act on behalf of this Meeting in advising and assist-
ing the trustees in relation to said trust. to a reinvest-
-ment of the same if in their judgment such a course
shall seem advisable. and on all other matters connect-
-ed with the intention of the donor. and they are re-
-quested to report to this meeting next year.

A Memorial concerning our late beloved
friend and Elder in the Church, Francis Taber,
having been laid before us at this time. was read. and
being fully approved by the Meeting the Clerk is di-
rected to place it upon record.

The Clerk is directed to make such extracts
from the minutes of this Meeting as may be necessary,
[illegible].

Having been favored in a good degree of Unity
and harmony to act upon the various concerns that
[illegible] of this Meeting. and the business having now been brought
to a close, - with feelings of reverent thankfulness for
the help which has been mercifully extended to us.
we conclude. Purposing to meet again on this Island
at the usual time next year. if consistent with the
Divine Will

Valentine Meader Clerk

338

1864.

1st Mo. 1st. With the exception of the Midweek Meetings
& the Particular meeting within the limits of our
Quarter, and two Preparative Meetings and one Meet-
ing for worship in Another, all our Meetings for Relig-
ious worship and discipline appear to have been
held. Those on First-days have been attended by
[illegible]
middle of the week and for discipline are more fa-
vored, and some who have recently departed from
the order of Society, appear to be more neglected at
Meetings. The rules are generally observed. A ten-
dency of seeking out to others, & often unduly
by behavior- visibly clear.

In most Friends except in the case of those who have
recently departed from the discipline and order of
Society and established separate Meetings, there
are some exceptions, detractions appear to be gaining
ground against; When differences have occurred, en-
deavors have been used to end them,

Queries 3d, A care appears to rest on the minds of
Friends, to bring up those under their direction in
plainness of speech and behavior, though it is
feared there is some neglect in these respects, Not so
prevalent as to appear as would be best, Most Friends
have a desire to preserve their children from it.

Testimonies received for Any Departures are
generally read in their families.

of Offenders: Some [illegible] unfaithful, and are generally careful as to the unnecessary disposing of Estates and places of public resort. Moderation and temperance are observed by most, according to the query

Answer 5th, The circumstances of the poor are attended to. None placed out from among Friends.

Answer 6th, Friends appear to be careful that all

Answer 7th, Our report states that some of their members [illegible] to a Printing Minister, and that one member is engaged in bearing arms. Another, that they have reason to believe that their members have not all maintained an uniform testimony against military Matters as faithfully as could be desirable. Clear, as to the remaining parts of this query.

Answer 8th, Friends appear to be generally careful in the several parts of this query.

Answer 9th, Our Records are attended to. A few cases of removal without certificate are reported.

Answer 10th, Some care appears to have been taken to deal with offenders in accordance with the query except in the case of defamation alluded to in the answers to the first and Second queries, in which no action appears to have been taken. No cause of complaint as to placing judgments

3 mo.

1862

[illegible]

[illegible] Thomas Taber, deceased.

[illegible]

Thomas Taber was attended, we humbly trust, as a Christian, on [illegible], to his eternal rest, a concern has engaged [illegible] that a record of his exemplary life resulting from [illegible] recovering attachment to, and earnest endeavors for the promotion of that cause which is dignified with [illegible] in the estimation of the creature, for by the G[illegible] we was what he was, but in the fear of that sure testimony [illegible] strive for the same blessed experience.

He was the son of Benjamin and Eunice Taber, and was born in New Bedford, the 14th of 9th month, in the year [illegible]. He [illegible] new members of the [illegible] Society, and was concerned to educate his children in accordance with its principles, and testimonies, of [illegible]

of his dear friend was convinced in early life, and [illegible] and united himself [illegible] Church, and was concerned, and enabled cheerfully to devote his time and talents, to the service of his Divine Master. He was diligent in the attendance of all our religious meetings, and in many ways approved himself a skilful workman in the service of the Church.

He was married in the year 1826 to Sarah Ann, daughter of William and Nathan Russell, who yet survives him, and to whom he was a faithful and affectionate companion until the time of his decease, a period of 35 years; tenderly mindful of the responsible devolving [illegible]

3111

1864

[illegible]

[illegible] and upright, [illegible] [illegible] years, and was appointed [illegible] Stanton [illegible] 1822. and in the discharge of his various duties there is cause to believe his labors were blessed to many. [illegible] as a man of much discernment and sound judgment, and living in the fear of God, his upright and consistent example enabled him to reprove with authority, in the occasion required it, and being clothed with [illegible] he encouraged the humble, careful traveller, and to speak a word in due season, to such as were weary, often saying unto them, "Look up, look up, we are nothing, the power is God's"

He being find large experience in the knowledge of Christ, and being himself concerned to keep the faith, [illegible] a faithful Watchman upon the walls of Zion, [illegible] [illegible] which has for many years been a terror to evil doers, by leading many who saw not the danger, into a dependence on human reasoning, in place of that [illegible] of the Spirit of Truth given to every man to profit withal. Which if singly attended to would lead out of all error and into all Truth; and he had an unshaken belief that a remnant would be preserved faithful to this manifestation [illegible] to some of his friends "Walk the hand.

[illegible] a season for want of bodily health for some years prior to his decease, during which time the tranquility of his mind, his weightiness of spirit, and the whole tenor of his life and conversation (for his words were as William Penn testified of

3 mo
1860

[illegible] with Christian patience, and resignation to the Divine will, Going often engaged in fervent supplication that faithfulness might be continued in, to the end, with frequent and reverent acknowledgments of the Lord's sustaining power and goodness.

Early this morning he was favoured to feel, as he said to one of his family, that in full entire resignation and comfort in the course he had taken in endeavouring to uphold our ancient doctrines and testimonies, against the innovations of Joseph John Gurney and others, who had endeavored to change the Faith & Practice of the Society, and the faithful testimony of Friends, and he then expressed that he believed J. J. Gurney would not speedily attempt to promulgate his views.

On the day after the work this Lord, to a friend who remarked to him that she hoped he would have patience to endure to the end, he replied, that there was no need on his part, which was all of the Lord's mercy, and signified in these words, "The things of time and sense are nothing compared to thy sustaining power, O Lord, God Almighty; strengthen and sustain, for thou only canst sustain." On the morning of the 9th he expressed himself thus, "I have done praying for myself, to bring things right in the Church, but I must leave it and all who are looking to me. I feel nothing in my way, all is peace and quiet. Help, Gracious God, strengthen and support to the end of the race, and then shall I receive glory, power and dominion." At another time "I cannot see the consummation of this dispensation but all is clear in Mercy, Mercy to be favoured".

On the Eleventh of Eighth month this voice was again heard in supplication as follows, "Oh! for one ray of thy presence, it is more than all besides! Will thou

gone by. When I might [illegible] all something for Thee, it will be but a very short time! Thou & Jesus!

[illegible]

as to Society; She said with much emphasis "Never mind I— Look up, look up!— Oh. I do desire that my mind may be brought [illegible], by communion with Thy time— Oh. How needful it is that all point to the great Source of Good:, How I desire all in me may be quiet, that my mind be not thrown off the right track, that I may rest with the glorified Spirits praising Thy name,

At another time she said "It is a long way to heaven to come to this, to say "Not my will, but thine be done, Oh Father! if I have done wrong, forgive, Oh let me not fall; let me not fall. I am near the end of the race, the sooner it joins me with eternity, the better, where I may praise Thee. Be pleased to grant a little more strength, a little more ease, yet not my will but thine be done, and Thine shall be the glory and Honor forever and ever!"

On 3d day evening she said to ——— I have put up petitions, and if they have been heard, Oh how happy How happy shall be the end—. I have an ever merciful [illegible]

[illegible] forgiven many things which appear in contradiction to this profession. It is only through the Saviour [illegible] can explain it [illegible] mently added "I feel a love so tender that I am entire [illegible] upon the glory of the Lord, Goodness [illegible] manifested much reluctance to [illegible] for him, I'd with fervency

2d mo.

1862

[illegible]

[illegible] of his son, [illegible]

[illegible] of the physician, in regard to the communication
[illegible] mind took place at times during a few of the last
days of their life, but their reasons [illegible]
and doubtless disappeared on the day
of conflict of time,

[illegible] Near the close he was engaged of the Lord in
[illegible] Humphrey Norris," and, without a
[illegible] struggle passed quietly away, on the
twenty-first of Eighth Month, 1853, aged nearly 81 years
and, as we doubt not, Death unlocked that mor-
[illegible] eyelashes of all grave cares, sor-
rowed and purified spirit will be forever jo-
ying the Lord.

"Bless
[illegible]

Signed on behalf and by direction of New Bedford
Monthly Meeting of Friends, this 22d of 5th month, 1862.

Francis Taber } Clerk.
[illegible] }

1865

1865

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England
for worship at Newport on First-day the 11th of 6th month 1865
and on Second-day morning the 12th of the same for discipline.

Accounts have been received from our several
Quarterly Meetings, by which it appears that the following
named Friends have been appointed to attend the Meeting
as Representatives, from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting,
Harvey Chace, Charles Perry, Jeremiah Foster, Ethan Fos-
ter and Samuel Hatfield, from Portsmouth Quarterly Meeting
William Hill and Valentine Meader; From Sandwich,
Thomas K. Wilbur, John Boadle, George M. Eddy,
Nathan Hunt and Jesse Tucker; which being
Sum called, they were all present and answered thereto
with one exception for whose absence a satisfactory rea-
-son was given.

The several Quarterly Meetings acknowledge
the reception of Extracts from the minutes of this Meeting
last year, and also severally inform that their respective
Treasurers have paid, or been directed to pay their Propor-
tions of Cost to the Treasurer of this Meeting.

The aforesaid Friends Valentine Meader, John
Boadle, Charles Perry and Pelatiah Hussey, to prepare
a Summary of the answers to the Queries, and produce
it at a future Sitting.

The aforesaid Friends Harvey Chace and
Thomas Perry from Rhode Island, Elihu Hussey
and William Hill from Portsmouth, and John
Boadle and George M. Eddy from Sandwich Quarterly
Meetings, to examine and settle the accounts of the
Treasurer of this Meeting, conclude upon a suitable Sum
to be raised, if any, for the expenses of this meeting this
year, and nominate a Friend for Treasurer, that the

subject of a new apportionment of Stock having been introduced at this time, it is concluded to refer it to the same committe, and they are requested to report their judgment thereon to a future sitting.

The Representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting, and agree upon a suitable person to serve this meeting as Clerk and another for assistant Clerk, and report the same at the opening of the meeting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

[illegible], and according to adjournment,

Ethan Foster, on behalf of the representatives, informed that they had conferred together, and were united in proposing Valentine Meader for Clerk and Charles Perry for assistant clerk, whose names having been seperately considered, the propositions were united with, and they are accordingly appointed to those services respectively, for the year ensuing.

The State of Society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries, together with the answers thereto received from our Several Quarterly Meetings, and a [illegible] Minute having been prepared by the Committee appointed for that purpose this morning, and laid before the meeting, it was also read, and being approved, was directed to be recorded.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been laid before the Meeting at this time, was read and the extracts of that Meeting on the various concerns that have, from time to time, claimed its attention, approved.

Adjourned to the Tenth hour tomorrow morning.

[illegible] morning the 13th inst. the time adjourned to, Friends again assembled,

The names of the Representatives having been called, the same present as yesterday, and continued [illegible]

1865

The Committee appointed last year to act on behalf of this Meeting in advising and assisting the Trustees of the fund bequeathed to this meeting by our late friend Othniel Tripp, — in relation to said fund., have at this time made the following report. Namely,

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed last year to advise with, and assist the Trustees of the Othniel Tripp fund report, that they have paid some attention to the matter of their appointment, but are not at present prepared to make a definite report.

William Hill on behalf of the Committee

Newport, 6th month 13th 1865

which is satisfactory, and it appearing that the object of their appointment has not been fully accomplished, they are continued under appointment, and desired to give such further attention to the subject as may open for and report to the Yearly Meeting next year.

We appoint our Friends Pelatiah Hussey, John Boadle, Thomas K. Wilbur, Samuel Sheffield William Hill and Thomas Perry, to consider of, and report to a future sitting, the names of suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

The Committee appointed last year to advise with and assist the Trustees of the Othniel Tripp fund report that they have paid some attention to the matter of their appointment, but are not at present prepared to make a definite report.

William Hill on behalf of the Committee

which is satisfactory, and it appearing that the object of their appointment has not been fully accomplished, they are continued under appointment, and desired to give such further attention to the subject as may open for and report to the Yearly Meeting next year.

We appoint our Friends Pelatiah Hussey, John Boadle, Thomas K. Wilbur, Samuel Sheffield William Hill and Thomas Perry, to consider of, and report to a future sitting, the names of suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

The Committee appointed by the Meeting for Sufferings are informed that that body, in view of the Shipped condition of the Society on this Island and the inconvenience of the location, — have had under consideration the propriety of continuing to hold the Yearly Meeting at this place, and that the subject has been referred to the serious consideration of this meeting. After a time of weighty deliberation thereon, during which the trials to which Friends are here subjected were feelingly brought to view, way does not appear to open for any action thereon at this time, and it is therefore concluded to refer the further consideration of the subject to our next Yearly Meeting.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon

1865

Afternoon. Met according to adjournment.

The Committee appointed at a previous Sitting to examine and settle the Treasurer's Accounts, and for other purposes, have produced the following Report, Namely.

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurer's account, and for other purposes, have attended to the duties of their appointment and report that they find the Account correctly kept and that there is a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of Sixty eight and 90/100 dollars.

We recommend that the sum of Fifty dollars be raised for the use of the Yearly Meeting for the ensuing year, and that Georg M. Eddy be reappointed Treasurer. We also recommend that the same sum be apportioned among the Quarterly Meetings the same as last year.

Thomas Terry on behalf of the Committee

Newport 6th month 12th 1865

Which is satisfactory, and George M. Eddy is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the ensuing year, and our several Quarterly Meetings are requested to pay to him their respective proportions of Fifty dollars, the sum concluded upon to be raised, and the Clerk is directed to furnish those meetings respectively with a copy of this Minute.

The Committee appointed at our Morning Sitting to consider of and report to this Meeting, the names of suitable friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings, have now produced the following Report. Namely

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting

The Committee appointed to propose the names of friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings, report the following. Daniel Peckham, Thomas S. Hilton, William Hall, John P. Knowles, Caleb Gifford, Obadiah Brown, Moses Brown, Gideon Gifford, Obadiah Brown, Jr., Moses Brown, Stephen Hussey, Joseph Hussey, Jesse Hunter, Isaac P. Wilbur, George M. Eddy, Samuel Shipley, John M. Foster, Stephen Smith, Jeremiah Foster and Thomas Terry.

Newport 6th mo. 13th 1865

On behalf of the Committee for Yearly

which having been read and deliberately considered. is approved. and the Friends therein named are accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year. 1865

Adjourned to this Week's Meeting tomorrow morning.

Fourth day morning the 14th Friends again assembled

The names of the Representatives having been called they were all found but two. for the absence of both of whom Satisfactory Reasons have been given

The Clerk is authorized to make all necessary extracts from our Records. not already provided for and sign them on behalf of this Meeting

Fully sensible of our great weakness. yet having been favored with a good degree of harmony and brotherly love in our deliberations upon the various Concerns that have claimed our attention during the several sittings of this meeting. and our business having now been brought to a Satisfactory close. we conclude. for the present. leaving to meet again on this week's end of the usual time next year. if consistent with the Divine Will.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting

Jonathan Wheeler Clerk

"

## Summary of Answers to the Queries. 1865.

Answer 1st Our Meetings for Worship and discipline have been duly held. and attended generally by the greater part of Friends. although there are several exceptions in the accounts from the different Quarterly Meetings of Midweek Meetings. and in one or two cases of some others which have not been held - The smallness of the number of members and the illness of some are assigned as the cause in some of these instances. The Queries appears to be pretty well observed. some appearances of sleep are reported. Mostly clear of other unbecoming behaviour

Answer 2 Love and Unity are pretty well maintained. and detraction mostly guarded against except in the case of a few

1865

[illegible] Number who have absented themselves from our Meetings with which they appear to be a deficiency in both the respects, An account states that endeavors have been used to end differences when they have occurred. and the others that no differences have appeared amongst them

Answer 3d. A concern appears to be felt by Friends to bring up those under their care in plainness of Speech. behaviour and apparel. and to restrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation. They are mostly exemplary therein themselves. and the Holy Scriptures appear to be frequently read in their Families

Answer 4th Friends appear to be mostly careful in regard to the several Parts of this Query

Answer 5th The circumstances of the poor are attended to. [illegible] and some among Friends, appear active.

Answer 6th Friends appear to be careful that all proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to discipline

Answer 7th Friends endeavour to bear a faithful testimony against the Spirit of priests' crafts, Four cases of the Performance of military duty are reported. one of which is under Notice, The others are reported as at present beyond the reach of Friends Care as regards the other Parts of the Query,

Answer 8th Friends appear to be generally careful as to the several Parts of this Query.

Answer 9th Mostly careful as to records. A few removals without certificates are reported. One is under notice. and some have gone to places beyond the reach of Friends

Answer 10th [illegible] appears to be taken to deal with offenders in some measure as queried after, yet more attention is needful in this respect. A concern is felt to place judgment according to our Discipline

1866

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England held on Rhode Island. commencing with publick Meetings for Worship at Newport on First-day the 10th of 6th month. 1866. and on Second-day morning the 11th of the same for Discipline.

Accounts have been received from our several Quarterly Meetings. by which it appears that the Friends named therein to attend this [illegible] Nathan Chace. John D. Wing. Jun. Stafford Nanny Chace and Charles Perry. from Salem and Dover William Hill and Valentine Meader. from Sandwich Jesse Tucker. John Boadle Stephen Swift and Isaac M. Edet. [illegible] having been called. they were all present and [illegible].

Our several Quarterly Meetings acknowledge the reception of Extracts from the Minutes of this Yearly Meeting. and inform that [illegible] Sheetings Suitable Care Taken. and [illegible] for their Entertainment [illegible] the Time of the Meeting.

[illegible] Meeting. by the accounts from Salem and Dover Quarterly Meetings. to change the Time of holding that Meeting. to the Fourth Month. Seventh Day. and Second Day after a Time of Publick Worship. it is united with and this Meeting accordingly directs that Salem and Dover Quarterly Meetings be held in the Fourth Month at such Time and Place as they shall see meet. and the Clerk is directed to furnish the Quarterly Meeting with a Copy of this Minute.

We appoint Ethan Foster. Harvey Chace Stephen Perry and John Boadle a Committee to prepare a Summary of the Business of the Year. and produce it at a future Sitting.

1866

Our Friend, Thomas Perry and Jeremiah Foster
[illegible] Valentine Meader [illegible]
[illegible] Clerk, and Isaac Mendenhall [illegible]
[illegible] Assistant Clerk during the
[illegible] with the Treasurer and audit
the accounts of the Treasurer of this Meeting, Con-
[illegible] to Meet the Expenses of this Meeting this year, and
to Name a Friend for Treasurer.

[illegible] requested to Confer
together at the close of this Sitting, and agree upon
a suitable Friend to Serve this Meeting as Clerk, and
[illegible] for Assistant Clerk, and report the Name
at the Opening of the Meeting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, met according to adjournment.

[illegible] informed that most of them had Conferred together
and were united in Proposing Valentine Meader
for Clerk of this Meeting for the ensuing year and
[illegible] for Assistant Clerk. Which Names
being [illegible] considered, the Proposition
was united with, and they are accordingly
appointed to those Services respectively.

The Committee appointed at our Morning
Sitting [illegible] and settle the Treasurer's Ac-
count, and for other Purposes, have presented the
following Report, Namely,

[illegible]

The Committee appointed to examine
and settle the Treasurer's account, and for other
purposes, report, that they have attended to the
duties of their appointment, and find the accounts
correctly Kept. That is a balance in the Funds of the
Treasurer of Sixty-seven 7/100 dollars. They recom-
mend that the Sum of Twenty-five dollars be

raised for the use of the Meeting this year, and that George M. Eddy be appointed Treasurer. 1866

Newport. 6th mo. 11th 1866.

William Hill

on behalf of the Committee.

which is satisfactory to the Meeting and George M. Eddy is accordingly appointed treasurer of this Meeting for the ensuing year. On several occasions requested to pay to [illegible] portions of Twenty-five Dollars. the sum concluded upon to be raised. and the Clerk is directed to [illegible] Meeting [illegible] of the Month.

[illegible] Meeting's proceedings [illegible] have been laid before the Meeting at this time, were read, to our satisfaction, and we appoint our Friends. Ethan Foster. John T. Kenyon. Thomas K Wilbur. George Foster and William F. Wood. to prepare the names of suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, and report at a future Sitting

By reference from the minutes of our last Quarterly Meeting's proposition for changing the place of holding this Meeting has again been brought before us for consideration, and after a time of deliberation thereon it does not appear that the minds of Friends are prepared to take any definite action thereon at this time, Earnestly desiring that we may be guided by Best Wisdom in the final disposition of this important subject it is at this time concluded to refer it to our next Quarterly Meeting for further consideration.

Adjourned to the 10th [illegible] Morning.

Third-day Morning the 12th Friends again [illegible] according to adjournment.

The names of the Representatives having met that were all present, and answered thereto.

1868

The consideration of the State of Society was entered upon. By the reading of the Queries succeeded by the answers thereto. Received from [illegible] Report of Meetings and a Summary [illegible] Report signed by the Committee appointed [illegible] sitting and laid before the Meeting, it was also read, and being approved, is directed to be recorded,

The Committee appointed at our sitting yesterday afternoon, to propose the names of suitable Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings, have at this time presented the following Report, viz.,

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting

The Committee appointed to propose the names of Friends, to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings [illegible] Ethan Foster, Thomas E. Wilbur, William Hill, John J. Remon, Valentine Meader, Amos C. Walker, Charles Perry, Ethan Foster, Harvey Chace, Pelatiah Hussey, Isaac Foster, Jesse P. Wilbur, Geo. M. Eddy, Samuel Sheffield, John H. Foster, Stephen White, Jeremiah Foster and Thomas Perry,

On behalf of the Committee

Newport 6th month 11th 1868. Ethan Foster,

which is satisfactory, and the Friends therein named as according, appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow Morning.

Fourth-day morning the 13th near the hour appointed, Friends again met,

The names of the Representation having been called, they were all present and answered thereto,

The Committee under appointment, to act in behalf of this meeting, in advising and assisting the Trustees of the Samuel Joseph Fund, have produced the following Report, viz.,

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

The Committee appointed to act on behalf of the Meeting in relation to the Trustees of the Rhode Island Fund, &c. &c. That they have given attention to the object of their appointment, and conferred with the Trustees in relation thereto. But the purposes of their appointment not having been fully accomplished, they are united in judgment that further care in the case will be necessary.

On behalf of the Committee

Newport, 6th mo 12th 1866. Jesse Tucker,

which is accepted, that the objects for which they were appointed have not yet been fully accomplished, they are continued and desired to give such further assistance and advice in the case as in their judgment shall be necessary, and report to this meeting next year.

The Clerk is authorized to make all necessary extracts from the records that may be required for, and in the name of this Meeting

Fully sensible of our great weakness, and of our low estate - yet having been favored during the several sittings of this meeting to labor together in love, and with a good degree of unity and harmony, for the welfare of the Church, and the business which we had to transact together, being brought to a satisfactory close - with feelings of reverence and thankfulness it is concluded to unite with all living in the Church for the many favors which have been vouchsafed to us, and of near sympathy, and Christian fellowship, one with another, we conclude. Purposing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year, if consistent with the Divine Will

Valentine Meader Clerk

1866

## Summary Answers to the Queries. 1866.

Answer 1st. By the Accounts from one of the Quarterly Meetings it appears that the Midweek Meetings of one of the particular meetings therein have not been held, and one Meeting for worship in another was not attended on account of indisposition and the inclemency of the weather. Three of the account state that one of their Meetings for Worship has not been kept up. One account also State, that a few named as Members who absent themselves almost entirely from Meetings, and that some care has been taken. With these exceptions all our Meetings for Religious Worship and discipline have been attended, generally by most Friends. The hour is nearly observed. Some appearances of sleeping are noticed. of other unbecoming behaviour Mostly clear.

Answer 2 Love and Unity appear to be in a good degree maintained, and detraction guarded against. Two of the accounts report that no differences have appeared, and one, that a care has been felt when they have occurred.

Answer 3. Endeavors appear to be used by most Friends to bring up those under their care in plainness of Speach behaviour and apparel, to restrain them from pernicious reading and from the Corrupt conversation of the world. They are reasonably good examples herein themselves, and the Holy Scriptures appear to be frequently read in their families

Answer 4th. Friends are careful to avoid the use of Spirituous liquors except for medicine, the frequenting of Taverns and Places of public resort, and also to observe moderation and temperance in the occasions thereof.

Answer 5th. Attention is paid to the circumstances of the poor. None Placed out from among Friends

Answer 6th. Parents and heads of families, with the young and unmarried, are mostly careful that all proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to our discipline.

Answer 7th. Friends appear generally careful to maintain an testimony in regard to the sacred Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

On account however state that there are a few instances

of attending meetings of divine worship sociably, and
make some exceptions in regard to bearing arms - re-
-ferred to in their account of last year.

Answ 8th Friends appear to be careful to inspect their
affairs and settle their accounts - to be punctual
to their promises and just to the payment of their debts,
and careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

Answ 9th Friends appear to be diligently attended to
in the several meetings as with exactness
under circumstances referred to last year.

Answ 10th Friends feel and exercise a care to deal with
offenders in a measure as ground after, and to pass
judgment, when necessary, according to discipline; yet
we fear there has been some delay in timely dealing in
some cases.

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[illegible] Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England
Rhode Island, commencing with first meetings
for Worship at Newport, on First-day morning the 16th
of Sixth month 1867. and on Second-day, morning the
17th of the same for discipline

Recorded from the printed Epistle of Second
Quarterly Meetings. By which it appears that the following
Friends have been named therein to attend this Meeting
as Representatives. Namely: From Rhode Island Ethan
Foster, Jeremiah Foster, Samuel Sheffield, Valentine
Kenyon, John W Foster and Nancy Chace; From
Salem [illegible] William Hill and Rebecca
[illegible]; From [illegible] Samuel Mabry, George
[illegible] [illegible] Smith and Stephen
Jones, [illegible] Which Epistle being read, they were
present and answered thereto except one for whose
absence a satisfactory reason was given.

With an exception our Quarterly Meetings severally acknowledge the reception of extracts from the minutes of this meeting last year, and they are informed that their respective treasurers have paid, or been directed to pay to the treasurer of this meeting their proportions of Stock.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, having requested permission to change the places of holding that with, and this meeting accordingly directs, in conformity with their request, that Rhode Island Quarterly [illegible] as follows, viz. At Hopkinton in the Fifth Month, at North Providence in the Second and Eighth Months, and at Westerly in the Eleventh Month, the Women's Yearly Meeting concurring herein, and the Clerk is directed [illegible] that [illegible] of this minute

We appoint our Friends John Borden, Ethan Foster and Jeremiah Foster, to prepare a Summary

of the Answers to the Queries, and produce it at a
future Sitting

and John W. Foster of Rhode Island. Valentine
Mccader and William Hill of Salem and Dou
and John Boadle and Isaac P. Wilbur of Sandwich
Suitable Sum to be raised For the service of the Meeting
this year, and propose the name of a Friend for Treasurer;

The Representatives are requested to confer
the name of a Suitable Friend to serve this Meeting
report the same at the opening of the Meeting this
afternoon.

Ethan Foster, on behalf of the Representatives
informed the Meeting that they had conferred together, and
those women respectively, for the ensuing year.

The following Communication has been, at
this time received from three of the Five Yearly
of the Society

"We, the undersigned, being three out
"of five trustees named in a certain Deed of Trust
"93. Olivet of Lynn, for the uses and purposes fully set

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[illegible] said Deed, [illegible] the [illegible]

" the provisions of said Deed, to represent to the Yearly

Meeting

" First, That they hold the aforesaid Real Estate

" for the uses and benefit, and subject to the control

" of the Society of Friends in Lynn aforesaid, in unity

" with and under the jurisdiction of the Yearly Meeting

" of Friends for New-England' of which Peleg Mitch=

" =ell was then the Clerk, with the further provision,

" that if at any time the said Society of Friends should

" cease to exist, then and in that case, that they the

" said Grantees, shall hold, dispose of and convey

" the said premises, [illegible] and in such

" manner as the aforesaid Yearly Meeting of Friends

" shall direct"

And we would further represent that for several [illegible]

" been held on the premises; that the property has been

" wholly unoccupied, and that the Society of Friends

" [illegible] that said Trustees [illegible]

" the purposes contemplated by the deed.

" Under these circumstances we would propose for

" the consideration of the Yearly Meeting, that the

" trustees or a majority of them be authorized and

" directed to dispose of and convey the property re=

" =ferred to, absolutely and unconditionally, and at

" [illegible] and receive the same

" whenever in their judgment the fair value of said

" property can be obtained, and to hold the proceeds

" of such sale to be finally disposed of as the Yearly

" Meeting may direct".

"Newport. 6th mo. 17th 1867

William Hall
Geo M. Eddy
Valentine Hoag
} Trustees.

and after due deliberation thereon it is the sense and judgment of this Meeting that said Trustees or a majority of them be, and they are hereby authorized to dispose

of and convey the property referred to, at their discre-
tion and to [illegible] at the
[illegible] Meeting, whenever they may think the fair
value of said property can be obtained, and to hold
the proceeds of such sale subject to the future direction
of this Meeting. They are required to report to this Meet-
-ing their action therein, and the Clerk is directed to
furnish them with a copy of this minute.

The subject of changing the place of holding
this Meeting, having been again introduced by reference
from the [illegible] last June, after a [illegible]
deliberation thereon, it was concluded to refer it to our
next Yearly Meeting

[illegible]

Third-day morning the 18th. Met, and again assembled.

The names of the Representatives were called, and
they were all present and answered thereto.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings, having
been laid before the Meeting, were read to our satisfaction, and
the action of that Body on the several subjects that have claimed
[illegible] Josiah William F. Wood, William Hill, John Boadle and
Joseph Foster, to attend and visit [illegible]
the Meetings [illegible] Sufferings,
for the ensuing year.

The Committee appointed at a former sitting to
examine and settle the Treasurer's account and for other
purposes, [illegible] the following Report, Namely,

"The Committee appointed [illegible]
"[illegible]
" to their appointment, and find the account correctly kept.
" [illegible] Balance in the hands of the Treasurer is Eight and [illegible] dollars
" the Committee recommend that Twenty-five dollars be raised for
" the use of this Meeting the ensuing year and that George

"M Eddy be reappointed treasurer"

"[illegible] atives therein contained are approved. Geo. M Eddy, is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the ensuing year, and our several Quarterly Meetings are request[illegible] directed to furnish those Meetings respectively with a copy of [illegible] made.

Adjourned to the South room this afternoon

[illegible] again met.

The State of Society was entered upon, by the reading of the Queries, succeeded by the answers thereto received from our several Quarterly Meetings, and a Summary thereof having been prepared and laid before the Meeting by the Friends previously set apart for that service, it was also read and deliberately considered, and after some alterations made therein was approved by the Meeting and directed to be recorded.

The Committee appointed at our Morning Sitting [illegible] Sufferings, have presented the following Report, viz.

"To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting

"The Committee appointed this Morning to se-
"lect the names of Suitable Friends, to constitute a Meeting
" [illegible] Samuel M. Hall,
" Williamville, Orlando Watson, Calvin Hunter,
" Collins, Wesley, Elias Foster, Nathan Chace,
" [illegible] Isaac P. Walton, Geo. M Eddy, Samuel
" [illegible] Ethan Foster, Stephen Smith, Thomas
" Foster, Simeon Levy, and William J Wood,
" Newport 6th month 18th 1867". "On behalf of the Committee

"Ethan Foster"

which is satisfactory to the meeting, and the Friends therein

named are accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting 1867
for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to the 10th Hour tomorrow morning.

Fourth-day morning the 19th, at about the Hour adjourned to. Friends again came together

The Names of the Representatives having been called they were all present Entire, and answered thereto.

The Committee under appointment, to act on behalf of this Meeting in advising and assisting the [illegible] in the Execution of the Trust, [illegible] following, report. Named,

"To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting

"The Committee herein for appointed to confer
" and advise with the Trustees of the Fund bequeathed to this
" Meeting by our late Friend Athmid Trisby, report, that
" two thousand dollars of said Fund is well invested in
" a Savings Institution in Fall River, and is paying a
" - dred dollars per annum to Rhode Island Monthly Meet
" ing Several years since by the advice and Consent of
" this Meeting, and that on twenty days notice of
" late treasurer of that Monthly Meeting for the same,
" That Monthly Meeting having been discontinued and
" [illegible]
" at present, to be no mode to collect the note, which Friends,
" [illegible]
" voted to the Trustees. that it might be well to place
" [illegible]
" Bank. in some other, like Institution of equal Stand-
" - ing, in order to divide the risk of loss."

William Hill on

"Newport 6th mo. 19, 1867. behalf of the Committee

which is satisfactory to the Meeting, and after a time of serious deliberation thereon, it appearing that a further of that time is not in a satisfactory condition, and that there is a necessity for extended care in the case, the

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Committie are Continued, and desired to give such
further attention and advice as the circumstances
may call for. and report to this Meeting Next year.

Having been favored during the usual
sittings of this meeting, to labor together in a good
degree of unity [illegible] of the
Church, and Mannifestly to sympathize one with
another in the transaction of the various concerns
which have claimed our attention, and the busi-
[illegible]
to a satisfactory close, with feelings of Gratitude
to the Great Head of the Church for the favors vouch-
safed to us. we conclude, for the present to meet again
on this Island at the usual time next year, if con-
=sistent with the Divine will.

Valentine Meader Clerk

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Summary Answers to the Queries. 1867

Answer 1st By the accounts from the different Quarterly Meetings
[illegible]
have been attended except two for worship in one quarter on
account of indisposition and inclemency of weather, and
the meetings in one particular Meeting which is not
been held for some time on account of insufficiency of Numbers,
With these exceptions they have been attended by most of
our Members, but on account states that these Meetings
have been much neglected by a few. The Testimonies to
have been generally well observed, and our Members to
[illegible]
=coming observers.

Answer 2 Love and Unity appears to be fully well maintained
and detraction guarded against, One Account States
that a care is felt in regard to differences when they have
occurred. No other exceptions in this way of differences men-
tioned.

Answer 3 Friends appear to be careful to bring up those under their

care in plainness, and to restrain them from frivolous reading and corrupt conversation; they are generally good examples themselves. We believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends' families

Answer 4th, We believe Friends are careful to avoid the use of spirituous liquors, except for medicine the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort, and also to preserve moderation on the occasions referred to.

Answer 5th, The circumstances of the poor are attended to. - none placed out from among Friends.

Answer 6th, A good degree of care appears to have been taken that all proceedings with respect to Marriage be conformable to our discipline, and on account mentions one case and omitting some cases of marrying out of the order of Society

Answer 7th, An account states that a few of their members attend meetings of other religious societies, and that there are two cases of bearing arms not within reach, the other accounts report clear.

Answer 8th, Friends appear to be careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts. They are punctual to their promises, just in the payment of their debts, and careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

Answer 9th, Careful as to Records. Some removals, with-
[illegible]

Answer 10th, Two of the Quarters report some care and concern to deal with offenders in measure as required after, and one, that, in consequence of their weak condition as to members no efforts have been made to deal with offenders since their last report, and that consequently there has been no instance of placing judgment

At our Usual Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, commencing with Public Meetings for Worship at usual hour on First-day the 14th of Sixth Month. 1868. and on Second-day Morning the 15th of the same for discipline

Accounts have been received from our Several Quarterly Meetings. by which it appears that the following Friends from [illegible] attend this Yearly Meeting. viz. from Rhode Island. Ethan Foster. Harvey Chace Amos C. Wilbur. Jeremiah Foster. William F. Wood and Samuel Sheffield: from Salem and Dover [illegible] Friends. from Worcester. George M. Eddy. Thomas K. Wilbur. Stephen [illegible] from [illegible] Falls. [illegible] unwell. the [illegible] and unwell thereto. except one. for whose absence a [illegible]

Our Several Quarterly Meetings acknowledge the reception of Extracts from the minutes of this Meeting last year; — they also inform that their [illegible] than [illegible] are directed to pay their proportions of Stock to the Treasurer of this Meeting.

A communication having been laid upon the [illegible] proposing to be an Epistle from this Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at Poplar Ridge, and signed by [illegible] C. Wilbur and Mahlon D. Wood as Clerks. — was received from Friends Harvey Chace Ethan Foster. William Hill. Amos C. Wilbur. John T. Kenyon and Thomas K. Wilbur, to unite with a similar Committee of Women Friends. should they [illegible] and report to a future sitting. whether or not in their judgment, it is expedient. in view of the circumstances of the case, that the same should be read in this Meeting.

We appoint our friends John W. Foster, Thomas Perry, and George M. Eddy, to prepare a Summary of the answers to the Queries, and present it at a future sitting.

Our Friends William Hill, Thomas Perry of Rhode Island, Valentine Meader and William Hill of Salmon Dam, and Jesse Tucker and Isaac P. Wilbur of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, are appointed to examine and settle the Accounts of the Treasurer of this Meeting, Conclude upon a suitable sum to be raised for the service of the Meeting this year, and propose the name of a Friend for Treasurer.

The representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting, and agree upon the name of a suitable Friend to serve this Meeting as Clerk, and propose for Assistant Clerk, and report the same, at the opening of the Meeting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the South room this afternoon.

Afternoon, met according to adjournment.

William Hill, on behalf of the representatives, informed that most of them had conferred together, and were united in proposing Valentine Meader for Clerk, and Ethan Foster for Assistant Clerk, and the names [illegible], the Representatives were united with, and they are accordingly appointed to their services respectively, for the ensuing year.

The Committee appointed at our morning sitting [illegible] to settle the Treasurer's account, agree upon a suitable sum to be raised for the service of the Meeting this year, and propose a Friend for Treasurer, have prepared the following report, viz.

To New England Yearly Meeting of Friends, now sitting

The Committee appointed to settle the Treasurer's account, and for other purposes, report, that they have attended to the duties of their appointment,

and find the Balance in the hands of the treasurer to be Ninety 43/100 dollars. they also find the account to Examin correctly Kept. with proper vouchers for the same. We recommend that twenty-five dollars be raised for the use of the meeting this year. and that George M Eddy be reappointed treasurer.

On behalf of the Committee

Newport. 6th mo. 15. 1868. Thomas Perry.

Which is united with. George M Eddy is accordingly appointed treasurer of the meeting for the year Ensuing. and our several Incuitual Meetings are requested to pay to him their respective proportion of twenty five dollars. the sum agreed upon to be raised. and the Clerk is directed to furnish those Meetings respectively with a copy of this Minute.

The joint Committee of Men and Women Friends to whom was referred the Communication from a body claiming to be New York Yearly Meeting of Friends having reported in favor of the reading thereof. it was accordingly read. and after a time of mighty [illegible] and [illegible] of strong Sympathy by many friends in behalf of the rights concerned belonging to that body. and the manifestation of an earnest desire on the part of this meeting for their relief in the right time and way. there appearing to be no opening for immediate action thereon. it was finally concluded that the communication be placed on file without further consideration at this time.

[illegible] Meeting adjourned to [illegible] Morning.

Third-day morning the Sixteenth.

Meeting met pursuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives having been called. they were all present as at our first sitting. and answered thereto.

The consideration of the State of Society was

entered upon. By the minutes of the Committee referred to by the answers thereto, received from our several Quarterly Meetings, and a Summary thereof having been prepared and produced by the Committee set apart for that service yesterday morning, it was also read, and having the approval of the meeting it was directed to be recorded.

The Committee appointed to act on behalf of this meeting in advising and assisting the Trustees of the Abiniel Tripp Fund, reported verbally that no further action had been taken in the case, the investments remaining as at the time of their last report. The Committee are continued, and desired to give such further attention to the subject as may seem advisable, and report to this meeting next year.

Adjourned to the fourth hour, this afternoon.

Afternoon, Friends again assembled.

The subject of changing the place of holding this meeting having been again introduced by reference from the minutes of last year, way does not open for any action thereon at this time and it is the conclusion of the meeting that it be left for

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been read, and the action of that body at its several meetings united with and approved, And a proposition having been made that the same Friends who served in that capacity last year be reappointed, it was united with, and they are accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing

Adjourned to the Ninth hour tomorrow morning

[illegible] called, they were present as at our previous Sittings and answered thereto.

[illegible] now been brought to a satisfactory close, — with unfeigned gratitude to Him who is Head over all things, to His Church and People, with hearts [illegible] and Christian fellowship, and with feelings of near sympathy one with another, we conclude, proposing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year, if consistent with the Divine Will.

Valentine Meade Clerk

## Summary Answers to the Queries. 1868.

Answer 1st. All our Meetings for religious Worship and discipline [illegible] for Worship and one for discipline in our Quarterly Meeting caused by inclement weather, and one for Worship in another, the non attendance of which was in consequence of the funeral of a friend. [illegible] suitable visits appear to be paid in attendance. Though one account states that a few (more regular in attendance) almost entirely neglect the [illegible] our Meetings, in which case some care has been taken. The Law generally well observed. Some appearances of sleeping in a few at times, of other unbecoming behaviour rarely met with.

Answer 2d. Love and Unity are in a good degree maintained as far as appears, and detraction guarded against. Two accounts report no differences, and the other states that care is felt in regard to differences, of which no recent cases above have occurred.

Answer 3d. Most parents [illegible] to bring up their children under this direction in plainness of speech behaviour and apparel,

to restrain them from reading pernicious books and the
[illegible] of the press. They are earnestly [illegible]
[illegible] Religious Instruction and the Bible at Home, that
they are frequently read in their Families and that
[illegible] parents & children in the Religious Society;
and to bring up children in [illegible]

Answer 4th We believe that Friends are careful to [illegible]
the use of Spirituous Liquors either for medicine, or the
unnecessary Hospitality of Houses and Times of Relief in
Sickness, and to observe the duties and testimonies on all
occasions refused to.

Answer 5th The circumstances of the Poor are attended to.
As Subsistence Money from monthly Meetings

Answer 6th Parents and Heads of Families appear to be
generally careful that all Meetings under their care
shall be conformable to our discipline

Answer 7th Two accounts answer clear, the other says
"Most Friends are careful in regard to Priests wages, yet there are
a few instances of attending and joining mustings of other
Religious Societies." And the same mustering reports two cases of
[illegible] that the individuals [illegible]

Answer 8th We believe Friends are careful to inspect their
affairs and settle their accounts, that they are punctual to
their promises and just in the payment of their debts and
[illegible]

Answer 9th Friends appear to have taken due care as to
Records. A few have removed without certificates, to
places where no meetings are held.

Answer 10th Although Friends feel a concern in the
important subject of this query, yet there has evidently been
delay in timely attention in a few cases. Judgment, when
placed, we think has been according to discipline. One
account states. "that in consequence of the diminished num-
-ber of our members, we have taken no measures to deal with
offenders, or place judgment, since our last report."

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1869

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island, commencing with Public Meetings on Seventh day the Eighth of Sixth Month, 1869, and on Second-day Morning the Fourteenth of the same

Accounts have been received from our several Quarterly Meetings, from which it appears that the following Friends have been appointed to attend these Meetings as representatives, namely. From Rhode Island Stanton Chace, Charles Perry, John F. Kenyon, Ethan Foster, Jonathan Chace, John H. Cook, Jr. and Josiah Foster From Salem and Dover, William Hill and Valentine Mead From Sandwich, George H. Eddy, Isaac P. Wilbur and Jesse Tucker. Whose names having been called it appeared all present but two, for the non-attendance of one of whom, a satisfactory reason was given

the exception of Ethan, from the Minutes of this Meeting last year. Rhode Island, and Salem and Dover Quarterly Meetings, also inform that they have directed their respective Treasurers to pay unto the Treasurer of this Meeting their proportions of Yearly Meeting Stock, and Sandwich that their proportion has been paid.

Information is also received from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting that they have united with Providence Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Asilia Chace to the station of an Elder.

We appoint our Friends John H. Cook, Jesse Tucker, George H. Eddy and William Hill, to prepare a Summary of the answers to the Queries and produce it at a future Sitting

Our Friends Thomas Perry and Ethan Foster from Rhode Island, Valentine Mead and William Hill from Salem and Dover, and Isaac P. Wilbur

1869

Meetings, are appointed to examine and report the Accounts of the Treasurer of this Meeting, conclude upon a suitable sum to be raised for the service of the Meeting this year, and propose a Friend for the Station.)

Representatives are requested to confer this at the close of this Sitting and agree upon

as Clerk and another for Assistant Clerk, and this Same at the opening of the Meeting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon. Met according to adjournment, Harvey Chace, on behalf of the Representatives informed the Meeting that they had conferred together and were united in proposing Ira Sherman Cadder for Clerk and Obadiah Lapham for Assistant Clerk, the Appointments were united with, and they are accordingly appointed to those services respectively for the ensuing year.

The Committee appointed at our Morning Sitting

to the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed to settle the treasurer's Accounts and [illegible] attended to the duties of their appointment, and find the Accounts have been correctly kept, with proper Vouchers for the same. There is a balance, in the hands of the Treasurer of One hundred and forty-two 51/100 Dollars. We recommend that twenty-five dollars be raised for the use of this Meeting this year, and that

Which is united with, and the Recommendation
therein contained adopted. George M Eddy is
accordingly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting
for the year ensuing. and on several Quarterly
Meetings are requested to pay to him their respec-
tive proportions of twenty dollars, the sum
agreed upon to be raised, and the Clerk is directed
to transmit the Minutes accordingly, with a copy
of this minute.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings, were
read & the Conduct, and Doings
thereof approved, the Correspondence directed for
that Purpose at a previous sitting, it was also
read, and Epistles directed to be
recorded.

During the consideration of the important Subjects
thereby introduced to the attention of the Meeting, the
Minds of Friends were frequently covered with deep exercise

to [illegible] Sufferings for

Third day Morning the fifteenth. near the hour
adjourned to. Friends again assembled.

The names of the Representatives having been
called, they were present as at our first Sitting, and
answered thereto.

The Meeting entered upon the consideration of
the State of Society, by the reading of the Queries Collect-
ed by the several Monthly Meetings, and from the several
Quarterly Meetings, and a Committee appointed for the
purpose of having been prepared by the Committee appointed for
that purpose at a previous sitting, it was also
read, and [illegible] directed to be
recorded.

During the consideration of the important Subjects
thereby introduced to the attention of the Meeting, the
Minds of Friends were frequently covered with deep exercise

and . mediation, on account of the many differences
=ces afsfound amongst us, as well as the low and
Stripped condition as to numbers, of two of

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

with the Divine Will, to meet again our dear
Friends, at the usual time, next year.

Thomas Meade
Clerk

## Summary Answers to the Queries. 1869

Ques. 1st. All our Meetings for Religious Worship and discipline have been attended, except that on account stated that in one particular Meeting. Several have not been held on account of the smallness of their Numbers and the feeble health of some; — And they appear to have been generally attended by most Friends, [illegible] a few, of their unbecoming behaviour, duely clear.

Answer 2. Two Quarterly Meetings Answer Clear. With an account they say. "Love and Unity appear to be maintained by mostly all the Members, well guarded against, as far as appears, Some Care has been taken in regard to differences.

Answer 3. Most Friends endeavor to bring up those under their Care in plainness of speech, behavior and Apparel — to restrain them from reading pernicious books and the corrupt Conversation of the World, they are generally good examples themselves, And we believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their Families.

Ques. 4th. Friends appear to be generally careful as respects the Testimonial part of this Query. An account mentions one case of dealing in Spirituous Liquors, in which, in consequence of the individual living at a distance, no care has yet been extended.

Ques. 5th. The circumstances of the Poor are attended to, no Children placed from among Friends.

[illegible] An account that Parents and Heads of Families, and the young and unmarried (with the exception of one case of Marriage [illegible]

to which Marriage be conformable to our discipline; while the other two accounts report no new case of marrying out. [illegible]

Queries 7th Two accounts answer Clear; while one [illegible] attending and joining other religious Societies" and there are two [illegible] to Friends Meetings, but there are a few instances of [illegible]

Query 8th. It appears that Friends endeavor to be careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts; to be punctual to their engagements, just in the payment of their debts, and to live within the bounds of their circumstances, [illegible]

Queries 9th Marriages, Births and Deaths are duly recorded, One report [illegible] Monthly Meeting [illegible]

Queries 10th An account states, "Some care has been taken to [illegible] of Friends [illegible]", "Friends feel a concern, so to do". - While a third reports that no steps, have been taken in this direction, in consequence of the smallness of their numbers. - Judgment is believed to be placed according to discipline,

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, commencing with Public Meetings for worship on First-day the twelfth of Sixth Month, 1870, and on Second-day morning the thirteenth for discipline.

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island and Salem and Dover Quarterly Meetings from which it appears that the following Friends have been appointed to attend this Meeting as Representatives, namely, from Rhode Island Harvey Chase, Jeremiah Foster, Charles Perry, John T. Kenyon, Elthia Foster, John W. Foster and Amos C. Wilbur. From Salem and Dover William Hill and Valentine Meader. Whose names having been called, they were all present and answered thereto. No accounts were present at this time from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, the Friend having them in charge informing that he had inadvertently failed to take them with him, but the assurance is given that effort will be made to produce them at a future sitting.

Rhode Island and Salem and Dover Quarterly Meetings from this date respectively Treasurers have been directed to pay to the Treasurer of this Meeting their proportions of Yearly Meeting Stock, and the latter Meeting also acknowledges the reception of extracts from the minutes of this Meeting last year.

Information is also received from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting that they have united with Smithfield Monthly Meeting in approving the Gift and Gifts and Appearances in the Ministry of John W. Foster.

We appoint our Friends Isaac P. Wilbur, Harvey Chase, Charles Perry, and Amos C. Wilbur, to prepare a Summary of the Answers to the Queries, and produce it at a future Sitting.

Our Friends Jeremiah Foster and Thomas Perry from Rhode Island, Valentine Meader and William Hill from Salem and Dover and Isaac P. Wilbur and Francis Taber from Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, are appointed, to examine and settle the accounts of the Treasurer of this Meeting, conclude upon a suitable sum to be raised, if

ary. for the service of the muting this year. and propose a
friend for Treasurer.

The Representatives are requested to confer together. at
the close of this sitting. and agree upon the name of a suitable
friend to serve the muting as Clerk and another as Assistant
Clerk. and report the same at the opening of the muting this
afternoon.

Adjourned to the South Room this afternoon.

Afternoon. and according to adjournment.

Harvey Chace. on behalf of the representatives informed the muting that they had consulted together and were united in proposing Valentine Mott for Clerk. and Elihu Potter for Assistant Clerk. and that Names having been separately considered. the Proposition was united with and they were accordingly appointed to those Services respectively for the year ensuing

The Committee appointed this morning to examine and settle the accounts of the Treasurer and for other purposes presented the following report. Namely

"To the Yearly Muting now sitting

"The Committee appointed to settle the Treasurer's "Account and for other purposes - report, that they have attended to the duties of their appointment and find the accounts to "have been correctly kept. with proper vouchers for the same.

"We find a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of One Hundred and Seventy-nine $^{24}/_{100}$ dollars. We recommend that Twenty-"five dollars be raised for the use of the Muting this year. and "that George M. Eddy be appointed Treasurer."

Thomas Perry

on behalf of the Committee

"Newport. 6th mo. 13. 1870".

Which being satisfactory to the muting is united with and the proposition therein contained approved. George M. Eddy is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this muting for the ensuing year. and our several Yearly Mutings are requested to pay to him their respective proportions of Twenty-five dollars

the sum proposed to be raised, and the Clerk is directed to furnish these minutes respectively with a copy of this minute.

The Records of this Meeting for Sufferings were laid before the Meeting at this time, and having been read, their action on the several subjects which have claimed their attention, was approved.

The important subject of our relations to the rightly Concerned members of the Society of Friends, to whom the ancient principles, testimonies and practices of their people are still dear, having claimed the attention of the Meeting for Sufferings, an Essay of such minutes has been prepared by that body, and laid before us at this time, and having been deliberately read and rightly considered it was approved and adopted by this Meeting. Our Meeting for Sufferings is accordingly authorized to procure the printing and publication of such number of copies thereof as in their judgment may be proper, and draw upon the Treasurer of this Meeting for the expense thereof.

We appoint our Friends Valentine Meader, Charles Perry, Samuel Shoffield William Hill and Jeremiah Foster, to consider of, and report to a future Sitting, the names of Suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing.

Adjourned to the tenth to-morrow morning

Third-day morning the fourteenth, Friends again assembled.

The names of the Representatives having been called they were present as at our first sitting and answered thereto.

The Committee appointed at our last sitting to consider of and report to the Meeting, the names of suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings, presented the following report, Namely.

"To the Yearly Meeting now sitting"

"The Committee appointed to bring forward the "names of suitable Friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings "propose the following, viz. Thomas R. Wilson, William Hall

John T. Hoyle, Valentine Truax, Nancy Chace, James
C. Wilbur, Geo. M. Eddy, Elkanah Watson, Samuel Sheffield,
Charles Perry, Jeremiah West, Jr., Lucretia Isaac P. Wilbur,
Stephen Swift, John Wetherill, Thomas Perry and William
F. Wood

Charles Perry

"Newport. 6th mo 14th 1870"

on behalf of the Committee
which is satisfactory to the Meeting, and the friends therein
named are accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting
for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

Adjourned to the third hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, met pursuant to adjournment,

Accounts were received at this sitting for Sandwich
Quarterly Meeting by which it appears that the following
friends were named therein as representatives to this Meeting
viz. Lucretia Isaac, Isaac T. Wilbur and Geo. M. Eddy, who
Names having been called, they were present and answered
thereto with one exception. For whose absence a satisfactory
reason was given.

That Quarterly Meeting also informs that their Pro-
portion of Yearly Meeting Stock has been paid to the Treasurer
of this Meeting, and acknowledges the reception of Ex-
-tracts from the minutes of this Meeting last year.

The State of Society was entered upon by the reading
of the Queries. followed by answers thereto received from
the several Quarterly Meetings, and a Summary thereof
having been prepared by the Committee appointed for
that purpose at a previous sitting. - it was also read
and being approved, it was directed to be recorded.

Adjourned to the Ninth hour tomorrow morning.

Fourth day morning the fifteenth, met the hour
adjourned to, Friends again met.

The Names of the Representatives having been
called, they were all present and answered thereto
except one, for whose absence a sufficient reason had
been previously given.

The Committee under appointment to act in be-
=half of this meeting in advising and assisting the
trustees of the Othniel Tripp Fund have presented
the following report, namely.

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting

The Committee under appointment to
advise and assist the Trustees of the Othniel Tripp
Fund. Report, that two thousand dollars of
said fund still remains deposited in the Fall
River Savings Bank, which we consider a safe
and desirable place of investment. The remain-
ing five hundred dollars, was, several years
ago, by direction of the Yearly Meeting, loaned to
Rhode Island Monthly Meeting, which Monthly
Meeting has since become extinct. The trustees hold
the Note of Levi Chase, late Treasurer of that Monthly Meet-
-ing for the latter amount, which note we think
cannot be collected, nor the interest thereon, in any
manner which Friends would approve.

There appears no further occasion for the
continuance of this Committee

Newport 6th mo. 14th 1870 For the Committee
William Hill.

Which is satisfactory, to the Meeting and the Com-
-mittee is accordingly released from further service.

The Clerk is authorised to make all ne-
-cessary extracts from our Minutes, not already provid-
-ed for, and sign the same on behalf of this Meeting.

The business which brought us together having
now been brought to a close, and having sensibly felt,
during the several sittings of this meeting, that we are
indeed weak and poor and blind and naked, - that
of ourselves we can do nothing, - and that our only
hope is in Him who hath promised His people that
he will be unto them Strength in weakness, riches in
poverty, and a present Helper in the needful time,

we now conclude, purposing to meet again on this Island, at the usual time next year, if consistent with the Divine will

Valentine Meader Clerk.

## Summary, answers to the Queries

### Answer 1st

All our Meetings for religious worship and discipline have been attended, with exceptions in the answers from two Quarterly Meetings. In one it is reported that two Meetings, in the limits of her Quarterly Meetings, occasioned by sickness and stormy weather, have not been attended. From another Quarterly Meeting, that at one particular Meeting for worship, owing to the smallness of their numbers, and feeble health of some, but few meetings have been sustained. Other Meetings have generally been attended by the greater part of Friends, in suitable health. The hour has been pretty well observed. Friends have been mostly preserved from sleeping, and clear of other unbecoming behavior.

### Answer 2d.

Love and unity appear to have been maintained by nearly all, and detraction mostly guarded against. No differences are reported except from one Quarter, in which care has been extended.

### Answer 3d.

Friends are desirous to bring up those under their care in plainness, and to restrain them from reading pernicious books and from corrupt conversation, they appear to be good examples before them selves, and we believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their families

### Answer 4th

We believe that friends are careful to avoid the use of Spirituous liquors, except for medicine, and also the unnecessary frequenting of Taverns and Places of

public resort, and to observe moderation and temperance on the occasions referred to. Except-ons Meeting reports a case of dealing in spirituous liquors

Answer 5th

The circumstances of the poor are attended to, none placed out.

Answer 6th

Parents and heads of families, with the young and unmarried, are mostly careful that all proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to our discipline, except two cases of marrying out, under care

Answer 7th

Most Friends are careful in regard to Priests' wages, yet there are a few instances of attending and joining other religious societies, and two or three cases of bearing arms by members who live at a remote distance, that have not been attended to

Answer 8th

Friends appear to be mostly careful in the several parts of this query

Answer 9th

Marriages, Births and Deaths have all been recorded. It appears by one account that the record of burials in one Monthly Meeting has not been attended to. No removals without certificates.

Answer 10th

Some care has been taken in regard to dealing with offenders, in a measure as queried after. One account states that they are not in a situation to deal with offenders on account of the diminished number of their members, and another that although they continue to feel a deep concern upon the importance of this query, yet there has evidently been a delay in timely attention, in a few cases. Two reports state that no judgment has been placed since our last accounts. The report from another Quarterly Meeting states that judgment is believed to have been placed according to discipline when necessary.

1871

. At an Adj. Mtg of Friends from Sev.
Yearly Mtgs in N. England, assembled this Yearly
Meeting pursuant to Adj. thereof on Fifth day the 11th
of Tenth month 1871, and on Second day morning the
12th of the same week adjourned.

The Committee appointed from Several Quarterly
Mtgs, to Join with a Committee of this Mtg, to
visit & attend this Mtg as in Session, Namely,
From Rhod. Island Yearly Mtg, Chas. Carter Ferry,
Chas C. Paine, Harvey Chace, Elam Foster and
John H. Foster, From Salem Mtg, Wm. Hill
and Valentine Meader, - and from Sandwich Jesse
Tucker, Isaac T. Hilton and George W. Eddy, Were
Named Yearly Committee, Viz, Married, present
and answered Queries.

At this Mtg Minutes
Epistles of Advice from the Yearly Mtgs of this Yearly
year, And inform that the Minutes have been
duly directed to be sent to the Treasurer of this Yearly
Mtg respecting Subscriptions of Yearly Meeting Stock.

Information is also received from Rhode Island
Yearly Mtg, that Charles Carter Ferry, Providence
was duly Elected an Overseer of this Mtg
to the Station of an Elder.

Committee Friends Charles Ferry, John H. Foster,
Jesse Tucker and Jeremiah Foster are appointed to
prepare a Summary of the Answers to the Queries
and Produce it at a future Sitting

The Committee Friends Thomas Ferry and
Samuel Sheffield from Rhode Island, William Hill
and Valentine Meader from Salem and Dover, and
Isaac T. Hilton and Jesse Tucker from Sandwich
Yearly Meetings, to examine and settle the accounts
of

laind for the service of the meeting this year [illegible]
pose a Grand Jur. Treasurer.

The Representatives are requested to confer to-
gether at the close of this Selling, and agree upon the
name of a suitable Grand to serve the Meeting as
Clerk, and another Grand Assistant Clerk, and report
the same at the opening of the Meeting this afternoon,

Adjourned to 1 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, met according to adjournment
Charles Perry, on behalf of the Representatives
informed that they had conferred together at the close
of the Morning Selling, and were united in proposing
Valentine Meader for Clerk, and Ethan Foster, for
Assistant Clerk, and their names having been sepa-
rately considered, the Propositions were both united
with. They are accordingly appointed to those ser-
vices respectively for the year ensuing

The Minute of the Meeting for Sufferings were
produced and read at this time to our Satisfaction, and
a Proposition having been made that the Grand now
under appointment should continue to serve in that
Capacity for another year, it was united with, and
they are accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting
for Sufferings for the year ensuing

[illegible] to examine and settle the Treasurers' Account and for
other Purposes. Produced the following Report Namely,

We [illegible] appointed to settle the Treasurers Account
&c for other Purposes Report, That they have attended to the
duties of that appointment and find that the Accounts have
been correctly Kept, with proper Vouchers for the same,
We [illegible] the Balance in favour of the Treasurer of One
Hundred and Eighty Six & 95/100 dollars. We recommend
the reappointment of George M. Eddy as Treasurer; and
the Editor of the Friend be requested to raise any addi-

Read and Accepted at the Annual Meeting held this day

Lynn 6th mo 12th 1871.

Thomas Perry
Chairman of the Committee

Which is satisfactory to the Meeting and George M. Eddy is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the Ensuing year.

The Trustees, charged with the care and Sale of the Meeting House and lot in Lynn have presented the following Report Namely,

To the Men, Society now Selling

The Trustees Have in Charge the Meeting House and Property in Lynn Report, That in Conformity with the Deed of Trust and the authority granted them by the Yearly Meeting, they have sold and conveyed, by a Proper deed the Property Held by them in Trust, for the sum of Nineteen Hundred dollars, Which Sum, together with One Hundred dollars received for Rent, Has been deposited in the Lynn Institution for Savings, subject to the direction of the Yearly Meeting, they recommend that Institution as a Safe Place of deposit, and that the accruing interest be applied, as may be necessary, for the service of the Meeting,

Lynn 6th mo 12th 1871

On behalf of the Committee
William Hill

Which is satisfactory to the Meeting, and the Trustees

[illegible]

that capacity,

We appoint our Friends Nathan Mendum, William Hill and George M. Eddy, to have charge of the Funds belonging to this Meeting, now deposited in the Lynn Institution for Savings, as the friends of the rent and sale of the Meeting House Property in that Place, and they, or either of them, are authorized to draw the interest accruing, or [illegible] may be necessary from time to time and pay the same to the Treasurer of this Meeting

[illegible] 10th [illegible]

Wednesday, 1st mo. the 15th. Friends again assembled according to adjournment

The names of the Representatives Elect, called they were all present and answered thereto

The state of Society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries, followed by the answers thereto received from our several Quarterly Meetings, during which many deficiencies, and much weakness and poverty were apparent, and the minds of the living members were brought under deep and prayerful exercise in consequence thereof, and Friends encouraged to greater faithfulness, both individually and collectively in the maintenance of the testimonies and principles of our Society - and in the performance of whatever duties or services may be called for at their hands.

And a Summary of the Answers having been produced by the Committee appointed for that purpose at a previous Sitting, it was also read, and being approved, was directed to be recorded

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon

Afternoon, Met pursuant to adjournment

An important subject, pertaining to the welfare of Society in relation to the Answering of our Queries by Subordinate Meetings and the administering of discipline in the case of those who have withdrawn from membership and established separate Meetings, having been brought to the consideration of the Meeting at this time after a free interchange of views and a full expression of sentiment in relation thereto, may close, not open for any action thereon at this time

The Clerk is authorized to make all necessary extracts from our records, not already provided for, and sign the same on behalf of this Meeting

Our business having now been brought to a satisfactory close, and having through the several sittings of this Meeting sat and together in a good degree of harmony

and brotherly love.- with gratitude to the Father of all our mercies for the favors vouchsafed to us, we conclude further purposing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year if consistent with the Divine will.

Valentine Meader, Clerk

Summary Answers to the Queries,

Answer 1st

All our Meetings for Religious Worship and discipline have been attended, except in unfavorable weather, since which have not been held on account of the small number of its Members and the feeble health of some. These Meetings have generally been attended by the greater part of Friends. But on account refers to some, who have been allowed to in some instances, stay unseasonably about the meeting, from our Meetings. The Queries Mostly observed, some appearance of Slighting is mentioned in each of the accounts.- Of other unbecoming behaviour mentioned, Clear.

Answer 2d

Love and Unity appear to be maintained by mostly all, and detraction mostly guarded against. One account states, that some care has been taken in regard to differences, the other, that no differences have arisen among them.

Answer 3d

Most Friends endeavor to bring up their children under their direction in Plainness of Speech, behavior and apparel, to restrain them from pernicious reading and the corrupt conversation of the World.- they appear to be good examples themselves, and we think the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their families

Answer 4th

We think Friends are careful to avoid the use of Spirituous liquors except for Medicine, the unnecessary frequenting of Taverns and Places of Public resort, and to maintain Moderation on the occasions referred to.

Answer 5th

The circumstances of the Poor are attended to. No children are reported as placed out.

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1871

Answer 6th

Parents and Heads of families with the young and unmarried appear to be desirous, and generally careful that all proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to our discipline

Answer 7th

Friends are generally careful in these respects, though two of the Accounts make some exceptions in regard to the attendance of Some where there is a hired Ministry, and one of two or three cases of Evasion are by Members who live at a remote distance, as previously reported, which have not been attended to.

Answer 8th

We think Friends are careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts — that they are punctual in their payments, and just in the payment of their debts, and except it arise within the bounds of their circumstances.

Answer 9th

Records are mostly attended to. One removal is reported to within the limits of a Meeting with which we are not in correspondence.

Answer 10th

Some care is reported to have been taken to deal with offenders in a measure as required, and to place judgment according to discipline, yet there has evidently been a delay in the proper attention to some cases, and one report refers to their diminished numbers as precluding their ability to deal with offenders.

This answer is not intended to embrace those who have formerly been members with us, but have left us with Seceding Parties.

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held at Rhode Island, commencing with Public Meetings for Worship at Newport on First-day the 16th of Sixth Month, 1872, and on Second-day morning 17th of the same for discipline

Accounts have been received from our several Quarterly Meetings, by which it appears that the following Friends were named therein to attend this Meeting as Representatives, Namely, From Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, Charles Perry, Ethan Foster, Jonathan Chace, John H. Foster, Jeremiah Foster 2nd, Thomas Perry; From Salem and Dover, William Hill and Valentine Meader; From Sandwich, Gideon A. Eddy, Isaac P. Wilbur and Jesse Tucker, Whose names having been called, they were all present and answered thereto with the exception of one, for whose absence a satisfactory reason was given.

We appoint our Friends Thomas Perry, John H. Foster, Jesse Tucker, Isaac P. Wilbur and William Hill, to prepare a Summary of the Answers to the Queries, and produce it at a future Sitting

Our Friends Charles Perry and William F. Wood of Rhode Island, Valentine Meader and William Hill of Salem and Dover and Isaac P. Wilbur and Jesse Tucker of Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, are appointed to examine and Settle the accounts of the Treasurer of this Meeting, conclude upon a Sum Suitable to be raised for the service of the Meeting this year, if any shall be deemed necessary.- and propose the name of a Friend for Treasurer,

The Representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this Sitting, and conclude upon the names of Suitable friends to serve this Meeting as Clerk and assistant Clerk and report the same at the opening of the Meeting this afternoon

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, met according to adjournment.

Harvey Chace, on behalf of the Representatives informed the Meeting that most of them had been together, and were united in proposing Valentine Slocum for Clerk, and Ethan Foster for assistant Clerk, and the names having been separately considered the propositions were united with, and they are accordingly appointed to those services respectively, for the year ensuing

The State of Society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries, followed by the Answers thereto, received from our several Quarterly Meetings, and the Committee appointed for that purpose, having prepared and laid before the Meeting a Summary thereof, it was also read and being approved, was directed to be recorded.

The Committee appointed at our morning Sitting, to examine and Settle the Treasurer's Account, and for other purposes, presented the following report, Namely,

To the Yearly Meeting now Sitting

The Committee appointed to examine and Settle the Treasurer's Account, and for other purposes Report, that they have given attention to that Service and find the accounts correctly Kept, with the proper Vouchers for the Money expended. Owing to an expenditure of upwards of Two Hundred dollars for repairs of the Meeting House at New Bedford, not anticipated last year, the Balance now on Hand is reduced to Twenty-Seven dollars and fifteen cents. — The Committee recommend that the Treasurer be authorized, temporarily to hire One Hundred and twenty-five dollars, to enable him to pay certain claims now due

We do not think it needful for the Meeting to raise any Money for its use this year, beyond the accruing interest on that now invested

The present Treasurer having asked to be re-
-leased on account of his feeble health, we propose
Thomas Perry to succeed him as Treasurer of the
Yearly Meeting On behalf of the Committee
Newport 6th mo. 17th 1872 William Hill

which is satisfactory to the Meeting; Thomas Perry
is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting
for the ensuing year, and he is authorized, in ac-
=cordance with the report of the Committee, to hire
temporarily, on behalf of this Meeting, the sum of
One hundred and twenty five dollars, to enable him
to pay certain claims now due.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings
having been laid before the Meeting, were read at this
time to our satisfaction, and a proposition having
been made that the friends now made appointment
with the exception of our beloved friend Stephen Swift
lately deceased, should continue to act in that
capacity, it was united with, and they are accord-
=ingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings
for the year ensuing

Adjourned to the tenth hour tomorrow morning

Third-day morning the 18th. Friends again
assembled according to adjournment.

The names of the Representatives having been
called, they were present and answered thereto, as
at our first sitting

The Clerk is authorized to make all necessa-
-ry extracts from our records, and sign the same
on behalf of this Meeting

Having accomplished the business which brought us
together, in much harmony and to a good degree of satisfaction,
though in small numbers, we now conclude; purposing to meet
again on this island at the usual time next year, if consis-
-tent with the Divine Will

Valentine Mott Clerk

Summary Answers to the Queries

1872 Answer 1st. At our meetings for worship and discipline appears to be attended except on Separation Meeting which was omitted on account of death in a Friend's family, and on Meeting for Worship omitted on account of the funeral of a Friend And on account sickness, that in one particular Meeting was for a time [illegible] owing to smallness of numbers; The love appears to be mutually observed. Some instances of sleeping are reported, but Friends appear to be clear of other unbecoming behaviour

Answer 2d. Love and Unity appear to be maintained by many all and detraction guarded against No differences are reported

Answer 3d. It would appear that most Friends endeavor to bring up their under their direction in fashions of Such behaviour and appearel, and that they are mostly careful to restrain them from pernicious reading and the corrupt Conversation of the world; and we believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friend's families

Answer 4th We believe Friends are careful to avoid the use of Spirituous liquors, except for medicine, the unnecessary frequenting of Taverns and places of public resort, and to observe moderation and temperance on the occasions refered to.

Answer 5th The circumstances of the poor are attended to, No case of Shaking from among Friends reported.

Answer 6th It would appear that Friends and Heads of families with the young and [illegible]

married are mostly careful in these respects, so far as may can be seen therefor in the present settled state of Society. On account mentions Several cases of marrying out, of long standing, which have not been attended to, but that no cases of the kind have occurred since the last account. 1872

Answer 7th. Most Friends are reported clear in these respects. But on account states, there are a few instances of attending and joining other religious Societies, and two or three cases of bearing arms, by members living at a remote distance, that have not been attended to, as previously reported.

Answer 8th. It appears that Friends are careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts, that they are punctual to their promises, just in the payment of their debts, and careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

Answer 9th. It would appear that Friends are mostly careful respecting their records, & Removals without Certificates are reported.

Answer 10th. It would appear that while Friends feel a concern and extend some care in dealing with offenders, there is a want of timely attention in some cases. And on account states they are not in a condition to deal with offenders, on account of their diminished numbers. No case of disunity & judgment is reported.

1873 At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England. held on Rhode Island. commencing with Public Meetings for Worship at Newport on First-day. the fifteenth of Sixth month. 1873. and on Second day morning the Sitting of the same for Discipline

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island. Salem and Dover. and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings by which it appears that the following Friends have been appointed to attend this Meeting as Representatives. namely. From Rhode Island. Nanny Chace John T. Kenyon. Amos C. Wilbur. Samuel Shotwell Thomas Perry and Jeremiah Foster; from Salem and Dover William Hill and Valentine Meader. and from Sandwich Francis Taber. George M. Eddy and Jesse Tucker. whose names having been called they were all present and answered thereto. except one. for whose absence a satisfactory reason was given.

By the Accounts from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting we are informed. that. that Meeting has united with South Kingstown Monthly Meeting in appointing the Life and services of the Ministry of Ethan Foster.

We appoint our Friends Charles Perry. Nanny Chace Valentine Meader and Francis Taber. to prepare a Summary of the Answers to the Queries and produce it at a future sitting

Our Friends Jeremiah Foster and Charles Perry of Rhode Island. Valentine Meader and William Hill of Salem and Dover. and Isaac T. Wilbur and Jesse Tucker of Sandwich Quarterly Meetings. are appointed to examine and state the accounts of the Treasurer of this Meeting. - consider and report a suitable Sum to be raised. if any shall be deemed necessary. to defray the expenses of this Meeting for the present year. and propose a Friend for Treasurer.

The Representatives are requested to confer

together at the close of this sitting, and agree upon
a suitable friend to serve the Meeting as Clerk, and
another for Assistant Clerk, and report the same at
the opening of the Meeting this afternoon.
Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon. Met according to adjournment.
Thomas Perry, on behalf of the Committee
informed that they had performed the service
intrusted to them, and were
united in proposing Isaiah Wood for Clerk, and
Ethan Foster for Assistant Clerk, and their names
having been separately considered, the propositions
were both united with by the Meeting, and they are
accordingly appointed to those services respectively
for the ensuing year.
The Committee having in charge the Examination and Settlement of the accounts of the Treasurer, the consideration of a suitable sum to be raised for the service of the present year, and the proposal of a Friend for Treasurer, presented the following Report, namely.
To the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, now Sitting. The Committee appointed to examine and Settle the Treasurer's account, Report, that they have attended to the service and find that the accounts have been correctly kept, with the proper vouchers for the payments made. There is at this time a balance of Two Hundred and Sixty-six $\frac{53}{100}$ dollars in the Treasurer's hands. It is not thought needful for the Meeting to raise any funds for its use this year. We recommend that Thomas Perry be appointed Treasurer.
On behalf of the Committee
Newport, 6th Mo. 16th 1843. William Hill
which is satisfactory to the Meeting and Thomas Perry is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the year ensuing.
The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been laid before the Meeting at this time, were read to its satisfaction, and a proposition having

1873 Ben made that the Friends now under appointment with the addition of our Friend Francis Taber. Should continue to act in that capacity. - it was united with. and they are accordingly appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year Ensuing

Adjourned to the Ninth hour tomorrow morning.

Third-day, morning the 12th. mo. the hour adjourned to. Friends again assembled.

The names of the Representatives having been called. they were present as at our first Sitting and answered thereto.

The State of Society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries. followed by the answers thereto received from our several Quarterly Meetings. and a Summary thereof having been prepared by the Committee appointed for that purpose at a previous Sitting and laid before the Meeting. it was also read. approved and directed to be recorded.

The Clerk is directed to make all necessary extracts from the minutes. and authorized to sign the same on behalf of this meeting.

Our business having now been brought to a satisfactory close. we conclude. purposing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year. if consistent with the Divine Will

Caroline Headley Clerk

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Summary of Answers to the Queries 1873

Query 1st. With one exception, occasioned by the roads being impassable All our Meetings for religious Worship and discipline appear to have been held. though Mid-week meetings are neglected by some. The hour is nearly observed. A few instances of Sleeping are reported. & the unbecoming behaviour clear.

Query 2. Love and Unity appear to be maintained by nearly all. and Detraction guarded against. No differences have appeared amongst us.

Query 3. Most Friends endeavor to bring up their under their direction

in plainness of Speech, Behavior and apparel, and to restrain them from pernicious reading and the corrupt Conversation of the World. They appear to be mostly concerned to keep them selves, and the Holy Scriptures are believed to be frequently read in their families. 1875

Answ. 4th Friends are mostly careful to avoid the use of Spirituous Liquors, the unnecessary frequenting of Taverns and Places of Public resort, and to observe Moderation and Temperance on the occasions referred to.

Answ. 5th The circumstances of the poor are attended to, and no Children appear to have been placed out.

Answ. 6th Parents and Heads of Families, with the young and unmarried are generally careful that all Proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to our discipline, yet a remissness on the part of some is apparent.

Answ. 7th Most Friends appear to be careful to maintain our testimonies respecting the Sexual walks spoken to in this Query.

Answ. 8th Friends appear to be careful in these respects.

Answ. 9th All Marriages appear to be duly recorded. Births Deaths and Burials, mostly; but Removals without Certificates.

Answ. 10th A good degree of care appears to rest upon the minds of Friends to deal with offenders in the Spirit and manner queried after, and to place judgment, when it appears necessary, according to discipline.

1874 At our yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, commencing with public Meetings for worship at Newport on first day the fourteenth of sixth month 1874, and on second day morning the fifteenth of the same for discipline.

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island Salem and Dover, and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings by which it appears that the following named friends have been appointed to attend this meeting as representatives, namely, from Rhode Island Ethan Foster Harvey Chace Samuel Shotwell, John T. Kinyon, Charles Perry John M. Foster and Jeremiah Foster. From Salem and Dover. William Hill and Valentine Meader, and from Sandwich Francis Taber, Jesse Tucker, and Isaac P. Wilbur, whose names having been called, they were all present and answered thereto except two, for whose absence satisfactory reasons were given

We appoint our friends Charles Perry William Hill Harvey Chace and Francis Taber to prepare a summary of the answers to the Queries and produce the same this afternoon sitting

Our friends Jeremiah Foster and Ethan Foster of Rhode Island, David Buffum and William Hill of Salem and Dover, and Jesse Tucker and Isaac P. Wilbur of Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, are appointed to examine and settle the accounts of the Treasurer of this meeting, consider and report a sum suitable to be raised, if any shall be deemed necessary to defray the expenses of this meeting for the present year, and propose a Friend for Treasurer.

The representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting, and agree upon a suitable friend to serve the meeting as clerk, and another for assistant clerk and report the same at the opening of the meeting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the Fourth hour this afternoon

Afternoon near the time adjourned to Friends again assembled.

Charles Perry on behalf of the representatives informed that they had conferred together and were united in proposing Ethan Foster for clerk, and Isaac P. Wilbur for assistant clerk and their names having been severally considered were united with by the meeting, and they are accordingly appointed to that

session respectively for the ensuing year.

The committee to whom was refered the examination and settlement of the account of the Treasurer, the consideration of a suitable sum to be raised for the service of this meeting this year and to propose a friend for Treasurer present the following Report, namely 1874

To the Weekly Meeting now sitting

The committee appointed this morning to meet with the Treasurer and for other purposes, now report— That they have examined his accounts, find the same to have been correctly kept, and vouchers exhibited for all payments. The balance now in his hands is two hundred and seventy eight dollars and forty cents, which they think will be sufficient for all probable expenses the coming year. They also propose the name of Thomas Perry for Treasurer.

Newport 6th Mo. 15th 1874.

On behalf of the Committee

Jesse Tucker

Which is satisfactory to the meeting; and Thomas Perry is accordingly appointed Treasurer of this meeting for the year ensuing.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been laid before the meeting at this time were read to our satisfaction; and we appoint our friends Charles Perry, Ethan Foster, Jesse Tucker and William Hicks to propose the names of suitable Friends to compose a committee for Sufferings for the ensuing year and report to a future sitting.

It is the conclusion of this meeting that for the ensuing year the expenses for board of the members in unity attending, be paid out of the funds of the Yearly Meeting, and the Meeting for Sufferings is requested to take the necessary care in carrying this conclusion into effect

Adjourned to the ninth hour to morrow morning.

Third day morning the 16th met according to adjournment

The names of the representatives being called they were present and answered thereto as at our former sittings.

1874

The state of society was entered upon by the reading of the Queries followed by the answers thereto, received from our several Quarterly Meetings and a summary thereof having been prepared by the committee appointed for that purpose at a previous sitting and laid before the meeting it was also read, approved, and directed to be recorded.

The committee appointed at our sitting yesterday afternoon to propose the names of suitable friends to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings have at this time, presented the following report. namely.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The committee appointed to propose the names of suitable friends to constitute a meeting for Sufferings present the following.— Thomas K. Wilbur, John Thomson, William Hill, Charles Penn, Harvey Green, Samuel Sheffield, Gideon Foster, Valentine Meader, Jesse Tucker, Thomas Perry, Isaac P. Wilbur, John N. Foster, Francis Taber, Jeremiah Foster, George Foster, and William F. Wood

On behalf of the committee

Newport 6th Month 15th 1874.

Jesse Tucker

which is satisfactory, and the friends therein named are accordingly appointed to constitute a meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

Henry Chace, on behalf of the Trustees of the Othniel Tripp fund informed the Meeting that a vacancy exists in the Board, occasioned by the death of our late friend George M. Eddy, and Isaac P. Wilbur having been named to fill the said vacancy, it was united with by the meeting, and he is accordingly appointed to that position and service.

It is the conclusion of this meeting that the time specified in the discipline for the assembling of the Yearly Meeting of ministers and elders at Newport in the sixth month be changed from the 9th to the 11th hour, and the clerk is directed to furnish each of our Quarterly Meetings with a copy of this minute, having the unity of the women meeting herein.

The clerk is directed to make all necessary extracts from our minutes, and authorized to sign the same on behalf of this meeting. 1874

Having accomplished the business for the transaction of which we assembled, in harmony, and to a good degree of satisfaction, with a comfortable feeling of assurance that the rising of ancient goodness is still spread over us in our weak and stripped condition we conclude, purposing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year if consistent with the divine will

Ethan Foster, Clerk

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Summary of answers to the Queries 1874.

Answer 1st All our meetings for worship and discipline have been attended except one mid-week meeting. Those on first days have been attended by most friends in a situation to attend. One account states that mid week meetings are more neglected by some — the loom mostly observed — Some appearance of sleeping is reported to in each of the accounts; of other unbecoming behaviour silence.

Answer 2nd Love and unity generally maintained and detraction guarded against. No differences are reported

Answer 3rd Most friends endeavor to bring up those under their care in plainness of speech, behaviour and apparel and to restrain them from pernicious reading, and the corrupt conversation of the world, and are mostly good examples in these respects themselves. The Holy Scriptures are believed to be frequently read in Friends families.

Answer 4th Friends are believed to be careful to avoid the use of spirituous liquors except for medicine, and the unnecessary frequenting of taverns, and places of public resort and to observe moderation and temperance on the occasions referred to.

1874

Answer 5th The circumstances of the poor are attended to. None are placed out from among Friends.

Answer 6th Parents and heads of families with the young and unmarried endeavor to be careful that all proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to our discipline. One account refers to several cases of marrying out of long standing, which have not been attended to, but reports that no new cases have occurred within the last year.

Answer 7th Two accounts report their meetings clear in these respects One reports a few instances of attending the meetings of, and joining other religious societies, and two others cases of bearing arms as has been previously reported

Answer 8th Friends appear to be careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts; to be punctual to their promises and just in the payment of their debts, and endeavor to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

Answer 9th Careful as to records - One recent removal is reported in which a certificate had not been obtained

Answer 10th One report states that a good degree of care rests with Friends to deal with offenders in reasonable time after and to place judgment when necessary according to discipline. Another that no case of dealing with offenders or placing judgment has occurred since their last report; And the third, that although Friends continue to feel a deep concern in this important matter yet there has been a delay in timely care in several cases

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Rhode Island commencing with public meetings for worship at Newport on first day the 15th of 6th month 1875 and on second day morning the fourteenth for discipline 1875

Accounts were received from Rhode Island, Salem and Dover, and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings by which it appears that the following named friends have been appointed to attend this meeting as representatives namely From Rhode Island, Charles Peirce, Valentine Meader, John S. Hanson, John M. Foster, and Jeremiah Foster, From Salem and Dover William Hill and Valentine Meader, Sandwich Jesse Tucker and Francis Taber; whose names being called they were all present and answered their [illegible] except one, for whose absence a satisfactory reason was given.

Two of the Quarterly Meetings acknowledge the reception of extracts from the minutes of our last Yearly Meeting.

We appoint our friends Charles Peirce, Valentine Meader, and Francis Taber to prepare a summary of the minutes to the queries and produce the same to a future sitting.

We have in attendance at this time the acceptable company of our beloved friend Caleb Gregg a minister of our society from Springville Linn County Iowa.

We have also the acceptable company of our beloved friend Thomas C. Battey of the same locality.

Our friends Jeremiah Foster and Charles Peirce of Rhode Island, Valentine Meader and William Hill of Salem and Dover, and Isaac P. Wilbur and Francis Taber of Sandwich Quarterly meetings, are appointed to examine and settle the account of the Treasurer of this meeting, consider, and report a sum suitable to be raised if any shall be deemed necessary to defray the expenses of the meeting for the present year, and propose the name of a friend for Treasurer.

The representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting, and agree upon a suitable friend

1875 observe the meeting watch, and another for assistant clerk and report the same to the sitting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.—

Afternoon—met pursuant to adjournment

The names of the representatives being called they were present and answered thereto as at our former sitting.

Charles Perry on behalf of the representatives informed that they had retired together, and were united in nominating Ethan Foster for clerk and Isaac S. Wilbur for assistant clerk of this meeting; and their names having been separately considered, were united with by the meeting, and they are accordingly appointed to those services respectively for the ensuing year.

The committee to whom was referred the examination and settlement of the account of the treasurer—to consider of a sum suitable to be raised for the use of the meeting this year, and to propose a friend for treasurer present the following report—mainely

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

The committee to examine and settle the treasurers account, and for other purposes, Report that they have attended to the service, and find that the accounts have been correctly kept, and that satisfactory vouchers were held for all payments made. The balance now remaining in the hands of the treasurer is three hundred and ninety seven dollars and seventy eight cents.

The committee are united in judgement that no further sum will be needed to defray the expenses of the meeting this year, and also in proposing the name of Thomas Perry for treasurer.

On behalf of the committee

Tabitha Mabee.

Which is accepted as satisfactory to the meeting, and Thomas Perry is accordingly appointed treasurer of this meeting for the ensuing year.

It is the conclusion of this meeting, that for the ensuing year, the expense for board of the members in unity, attending be paid out of the funds of the Yearly Meeting; and the meeting for Sufferings is requested to take the necessary care in carrying this conclusion into effect. 1875

The records of the meeting for Sufferings having been laid before the meeting at this time, were read to our satisfaction; and a proposition having been made that the friends now under appointment, with the exception of our late friend Thomas K. Wilbur should continue to act in that capacity it was united with, and they are accordingly appointed to constitute a meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing.

Harvey Chace on behalf of the Trustees of the Othniel Tripp fund informed the meeting that a vacancy exists in the board, occasioned by the death of our friend Thomas K. Wilbur, and James S. Wilbur having been named by the surviving trustees to fill the said vacancy it was united with, and he is accordingly appointed to that position and service.

Adjourned to half past nine O'clock to morrow morning.

Third day morning the 15th Friends again assembled according to adjournment

The names of the representatives having been called they were all present and answered thereto

The state of society was taken up by the reading of the Queries followed by the answers thereto, received from our several Quarterly Meetings, and a summary thereof having been prepared by the committee appointed for that purpose at a previous sitting, and laid before the meeting, it was read, approved and directed to be recorded

Our beloved friend Enoch Gregg of Springville Linn County Iowa has attended this meeting— His company and gospel labors have been acceptable and comforting to us, and the clerk is directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute, and sign the same on behalf of the meeting.

We have also with us at this time the acceptable company of our beloved friend Thomas C. Battey of Viola Linn County Iowa whose exemplary bearing and solid deportment have been acceptable to us, and the clerk is directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute.

1875 The clerk is directed to make all necessary extracts from our minutes, and authorized to sign the same on behalf of this meeting.

Having accomplished the business which has claimed our attention to a good degree of satisfaction and comfort, under feelings of gratitude to Him from whom all good cometh, and a renewed assurance that he is still mindful of his dependent children whether few or many we conclude, purposing, to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year if consistent with the divine will.

Ethan Foster Clerk

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Summary of answers to the Queries 1875

Ans. 1st. All our meetings have been attended except one for worship on account of deep snow — and generally by most Friends. The rules nearly observed — Mostly preserved from sleeping — of other unbecoming behaviour clear.

Ans. 2nd. Love and unity appear to be in good degree maintained among those who usually attend our meetings, and detraction guarded against — no differences have appeared.

Ans. 3rd. Some want of care evidently exists among Friends in regard to bringing up those under their direction in plainness — they are mostly careful to restrain them from a frivolous reading and the corrupt conversation of the world; and in general good examples have been set. We believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in most Friends families, though not in all so frequently as would be best.

Ans 4th. Friends are believed to be careful as respects the several parts of this query.

Ans 5th. The circumstances of the poor are attended to. No children placed from among Friends.

Ans. 6th. Parents and heads of families appear to be concerned to exercise a care in these respects. Yet some want of care is reported, and also one case of running out.

Ans. 7th. Friends are believed to maintain our testimonies in regard to the several matters referred to in this query with the exception

of a few instances of our young members absenting themselves from religious meetings.

1876

Ans. 8th Friends appear to be careful in the several parts of this query.

Ans. 9th Our youth are attended to — one case of removal without certificate is reported.

Ans. 10th Friends continue to feel a concern on the important subjects of this query. Yet a delay in timely dealing in some instances is reported. There has been no case of placing judgement.

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1876

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, commencing with public meetings for worship at Newport on first day the 11th of 6th month 1876 and on 2nd day morning, the 12th for discipline.

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island, Salem and (Dover, and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, by which it appears that the following named friends have been appointed to attend this meeting as representatives — named from Rhode Island, Thomas Harvey Chace, Ethan Foster, George Foster, Jeremiah Foster, Jonathan Chace and Samuel Sheffield. From Salem and Dover, William Hill and Valentine Meader, Sandwich — Francis Taber Isaac F. Wilbur and Jesse Tucker, whose names being called they were all present and answered thereto except one, for whose absence a satisfactory reason was given.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting informs that they have united with Providence Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Jeremiah Foster to the station of an elder.

We appoint our friends Valentine Meader, Jeremiah Foster, Thomas Arnold and Francis Taber to prepare a summary of the answers to the queries, and produce the same to a future sitting.

Our friends William F. Wood, and George Foster of Rhode Island, Valentine Meader of Salem and (Dover

and Jesse Hickes and Francis Weber of Frankfort Quarterly meeting, as committee to examine and settle the
1876 account of the treasurer of this meeting, consider and report a sum suitable to be raised, if any shall be deemed necessary to defray the expenses of the meeting for the present year and propose a friend for treasurer,

The representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting and agree upon a suitable friend, to serve the meeting as clerk and another for assistant clerk and report the same to the sitting this afternoon

Adjourned till 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon met the time adjourned to Friends again assembled.

The names of the representatives being called, they were present and answered thereto as at the morning sitting

Valentine Meader on behalf of the representatives informed the meeting that they had conferred together and were united in proposing Ethan Foster for clerk and Isaac P. Wilbur for assistant clerk of this meeting and their names having been separately considered were united with by the meeting, and they are accordingly appointed to those services respectively for the ensuing year.

The state of society was taken up by the reading of the queries followed by the answers thereto received from our several Quarterly meetings; and a summary thereof having been prepared by the committee appointed for that purpose at a previous sitting and laid before the meeting, it was also read, approved and directed to be recorded.

Adjourned to the tenth hour to morrow morning

Third day morning the 13th Friends again met pursuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives having been called they were present and answered thereto as at our last previous sitting

The reading of the Minutes & Sufferings having been laid before the meeting at this time were read to our satisfaction

and a proposition having been made, that the friends now under appointment with the addition of our friend Jonathan Chace should continue to act in that capacity, it was united with, and they are accordingly appointed to constitute a meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year. 1876

The committee to whom was refered the examination and settlement of the account of the treasurer — to consider the sum suitable to be raised for the use of the meeting this year, and to propose a Friend for treasurer, present the following report - namely,

To the Yearly Meeting

The committee appointed to examine and settle the account of the treasurer and for other purposes, report, that they have attended to their appointment and find that the accounts have been correctly kept, and that there remaint in the hands of the treasurer one hundred and ninety five dollars and seventy seven cents. The committee are united in recommending that a further sum of three hundred dollars be provided to meet the expenses of the meeting this year, and in proposing the name of Thomas Perry for treasurer.

On behalf of the Committee

Newport 6th mo. 12th 1876. Francis Taber

which is satisfactory to the meeting; and Thomas Perry is accordingly appointed treasurer of the meeting for the year ensuing; and the meeting for sufferings is authorized to direct as to how the necessary funds shall be raised.

It is the conclusion of this meeting that the same permission for the payment of the board of the members attending our next Yearly Meeting as made by minute of last year be continued for the year ensuing.

The clerk is directed to make all necessary extracts from our minutes, and authorized to sign the same on behalf of this meeting.

1876

The business for which we came together having been transacted in harmony and brotherly condescension, and being now concluded - under a humbling sense of our many weaknesses, and of our stripped and peeled condition as a people, we still feel bound thankfully to acknowledge the continued evidence of divine regard and favor which has at times, during our several sittings been witnessed, and under which we conclude, purposing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year, if consistent with the divine will. Ethan Foster, Clerk

## Summary of answers to the queries 1876.

Ans. 1st All our meetings for worship and discipline have been attended; those on first days by most of our members mid-week meetings and some of discipline are more neglected by a few. The queries is generally well observed Some appearance of sleeping visitors in a few - close of the meeting

Ans. 2d Love and unity are maintained, except that one account confines this answer to those who usually attend Friends meetings - detraction is reported to be guarded against and no differences are known to exist.

Ans. 3rd We believe Friends mostly endeavor to bring up their children in the truth, plainness of speech, behaviour and apparel, and to restrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation - They appear to be good examples before their children. We believe Family Scripture are frequently and in most families performed but profaneness are too much neglected by a few.

Ans. 4th Friends are generally careful to avoid the use of spirituous liquors except for medicinal purposes - the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort, and to be in the moderation and temperance on all occasions. —

Ans. 5th There are none amongst us requiring assistance to the poor have been placed out.

Ans. 6th Friends appear to be generally clear that all marriages with respect to marriage should conform to our discipline

yet in one Quarterly Meeting some recent cases of managing out are reported, and some of long standing that have not been attended to. 1876

Ans. 7th We believe Friends are generally careful to maintain the several testimonies referred to in this query, yet there are a few of the younger members who have attended meetings of other religious societies.

Ans. 8th Friends are careful so far as appears in regard to the several matters referred to in this query.

Ans. 9th As far as appears Friends are careful as to recording removals from our Quarterly Meeting to another without certificate in printed minutes.

Ans. 10th Some care has been taken to deal with offenders, yet no case of placing judgement is reported. Some cases of delinquency have recently occurred which have not been attended to.

1877

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, commencing with public worship at Newport on first day the tenth of sixth month 1877, and on second day morning the eleventh for discipline

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island, Salem and Dover, and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, by which it appears that the following named Friends have been appointed to attend this meeting as representatives, viz from R. I. Thomas Rodman, George Foster, Nathan Chace, Esther Foster, Samuel Sheffield and Jeremiah Foster. Salem and Dover - Valentine Hoag, and William Hill. Sandwich - Francis Taber Jesse Tucker and Isaac P. Wilbur, whose having been called, they were all present, and answered to their names except one, for whose absence a satisfactory reason was given

We appoint our friends Francis Taber Valentine Hoag Charles Tripp and Jonathan Chace to prepare a summary of the answers to the queries and produce the same to a future sitting.

Our friends George Foster, Samuel Sheffield and Esther Foster of Rhode Island, Valentine Hoag of Salem and Dover, and Isaac P. Wilbur and Francis Taber of Sandwich Quarterly Meetings are appointed to examine, and settle the account of the treasurer of this meeting, consider of and report a sum suitable to be raised if any shall be thought necessary to defray the expenses of the meeting for the present year and propose a Friend for treasurer.

The representatives are requested to confer together at the rising of this sitting and report some suitable Friend to serve the meeting as clerk and another for assistant clerk and report the same to the sitting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon - Friends again met pursuant to adjournment

The names of the representatives being called, they were present, and answered thereto as at the morning sitting. 877

[illegible] meeting that they had conferred together, and were united in proposing Ethan F[illegible] per ticket, and Jesse W. Wilbur for assistant clerk of this meeting; and their names having been separately considered were united with, and they are accordingly appointed to the stations respectively for the ensuing year

The State of society was taken up by the reading of the queries, followed by the answers thereto received from our several Quarterly Meetings, and a summary thereof having been prepared and laid before the meeting, it was read, approved and directed to be recorded.

Adjourned to the tenth hour to-morrow morning.

Third day morning the 12th met, according to adjournment.

The names of the representatives having been called [illegible] sitting.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been laid before the meeting at this time, were read to our satisfaction; and it is the conclusion of this meeting that the friends now under appointment continue to act in that capacity, and thus constitute a meeting for sufferings for the ensuing year.

The committee to whom was referred the examination and settlement of the account of the treasurer, to consider of a sum suitable to be raised for the use of the meeting this year, and to [illegible] present the following report; viz.

[illegible] Yearly Meeting [illegible] that [illegible] of 34 35/100 dollars - There will probably be required to defray the [illegible]

1877 and the committee recommend that the treasurer be authorized to hire such sum as may be necessary, not exceeding that amount, [illegible] meeting [illegible] recommend that the [illegible] authorize the trustees having in charge, the Lynn meeting house [illegible] to hire without [illegible] the amount to hire with the Lynn Institute [illegible] amount to be paid out of the treasurer at the [illegible] present year

Friends are united in proposing Thomas Perry for Treasurer

[illegible] of the committee

Newport 6th mo. 11th 1877 Valentine Meader

which is satisfactory to the meeting and Thomas Perry is accordingly reappointed treasurer of the meeting for the year ensuing.

It is the conclusion of this meeting that the same provision for the payment of the board of the members attending [illegible] made by minute of last year be continued for the ensuing year.

The clerk is directed to make all necessary [illegible] from our minutes, and authorized to sign the same on behalf of this meeting.

Having been favored to transact the business that has come before us during the several sittings of this meeting in a good degree of unity [illegible] feelings of gratitude for the [illegible] stripped and peeled as we are, we conclude, purposing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year if consistent with the divine will.

(Thomas Foster Clerk

1877

1st. With one exception all our meetings for divine worship and discipline have been attended. Those first days of most frequent occurrence, their numbers are large and their deportment solid. Some meetings are small, but this is not common, the inclement season and the distance of others, the attendance is very small, due consideration — the hour is punctually observed, A few instances of sleeping are reported; Of other unbecoming behaviour clear!

2nd. [illegible] unprovided against — No differences apparent among us. [illegible] this [illegible]

3rd. Friends endeavour to bring up their children in plainness of speech, behaviour, and apparel to avoid [illegible] conversation, and are generally exemplary therein themselves and in their families.

4th. Friends are believed to be careful to avoid the use of spirituous liquors except for medicine, (One Quarterly Meeting report mostly carried) also the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort and to observe moderation, and temperance on the occasions referred to.

5th. The circumstances of the [illegible] do not prevail among Friends.

6th. Parents and heads of families with the young and unmarried appear to have a care that all proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to our disciplines.

7th. Friends are believed to be [illegible] in plain ways, yet there are a few instances of our young members attending other religious meetings — Clear as to the other parts of this query.

8th. Friends appear to be careful in regard to the several parts of this query.

Ans. 9 — Our records are believed to be properly attended to One case of removal without certificate is reported, which is under notice.

Ans. 10 — Friends continue to feel a concern on the important subjects of this query; yet there has been a delay in timely attention in several cases — No case of placing judgment is reported.

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1878

A Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England and the Island, commencing with public meetings for worship at Newport on first day the 16th of the 6th month 1878 and on 2nd day morning the 17th for discipline.

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island, Salem & Lynn and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, by which it appears that the following named friends have been appointed to attend this meeting as representatives — named — from Rhode Island Jonathan Foster, Charles Peery, Ethan Foster, Moses Shotwell, John W. Foster, and Jonathan Chace. Salem Lydia Valentine Meader, and William Hill. Sandwich Francis Tabor, Isaac P. Willcox and Jesse Tucker; when names were called, they were all present and answered thereto except two, for the absence of whom satisfactory reasons were given.

Appointed Francis Tabor Charles Peery, Jonathan Chace, and John W. Foster to prepare a Summary of the answers to the queries, and produce the same to a future sitting.

Our friends George Foster, John Barclay Foster and Charles Peery of Rhode Island, Valentine Meader of Salem and Lynn, and Jesse Tucker and Francis Tabor of Sandwich Quarterly Meetings appointed to examine and settle the account of the treasurer of this meeting — consider and report a sum suitable to be raised if any shall be deemed necessary to defray the expenses of the meeting for the present year, and nominate a Friend for treasurer.

The representatives are requested to confer together

at the close of this sitting and agree upon a suitable friend to serve the meeting as clerk, and another as assistant clerk and report the same to the sitting this afternoon.

1878

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon - met the hour adjourned to, and again assembled.

The names of the representatives having been called, they were present and answered thereto as at our first sitting.

Charles Penn, on behalf of the representatives informed the meeting that they had conferred together and were united in proposing Ethan Foster for clerk, and Jonathan Chace for assistant clerk of this meeting; and their names having been separately considered, were united with, and they are accordingly appointed to those stations respectively for the ensuing year.

The state of society was taken up by the reading of the queries and the answers thereto in several Quarterly Meetings; and a summary thereof having been prepared, and laid before the meeting, it was also read, approved and directed to be recorded.

The committee to whom was referred the examination and settlement of the account of the treasurer of this meeting - to consider of a sum suitable to be raised for the use of the meeting this year, and to propose a Friend for treasurer, present the following report - Namely -

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting -

The committee appointed to examine and settle the account of the Treasurer and for other purposes

Report -

That they have attended to that service, and find that the accounts have been correctly kept, and the sum now in the treasurer is $242 30/100, payment of which is to be made in accordance with the minute of last year, by a draft on the Lynn meeting house fund - It is estimated that the sum required for the expense

of the present meeting will be about four hundred dollars and the committee are united in recommending that the Trustees of the aforesaid fund, is authorized to pay to the order of the Treasurer of this meeting such sum as shall appear to be due him on a final settlement of the account for the current year.

1878

They are also united in proposing Thomas Penn for Treasurer.

On behalf of the committee

Valentine Meader

which is satisfactory to the meeting, and Thomas Penn, is accordingly appointed treasurer of the meeting for the ensuing year, and the trustees of the Byberry meeting house fund, is either them or authorized to pay to the order of the treasurer of this meeting such sum as shall appear to be due him on a final settlement of the account for the current year.

Adjourned to half past nine o'clock to morrow morning.

Third day morning the 18th Friends again met pursuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives being called they were present and answered thereto as at our last sitting.

The minutes of the meeting for Sufferings having been laid before the meeting at this time were read & found satisfactory; and it is the conclusion of this meeting that the same appointment continue to act in that capacity, and thus constitute a meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year.

It is the conclusion of this meeting that the same provision for the payment of the board of the members attending our next yearly meeting as was by minute of last year be continued for the year to come.

The clerk is directed to make all necessary extracts from the minutes of this meeting, and authorized to sign them on its behalf. ——

1878

Having been favored to transact the business which has called us together in harmony and brotherly condescension — with renewed evidence of divine regard mercifully extended in our low and tried condition, we conclude postponing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year, unless the meeting for Sufferings should decide for some to assemble with them, in which case they are desired seasonably to notify [illegible]

Clerk

Cyrus Foster

## Summary of Answers for Queries 1878

Ans. 1st All our meetings for worship and discipline have been attended except that one report mentions one meeting for worship that was not held. Those first days have been attended by [illegible] who are in a capacity to attend. Mid-week meetings and those for discipline neglected by some Friends. The hour pretty well observed — a few instances sleeping noticed — no other unbecoming behaviour.

Ans. 2nd Love and unity are generally maintained [illegible] and refers to a difference, which the labor of Friends has not been entirely successful in settling. Detraction with a few exceptions reported by the same Quarter by detailing is pretty well guarded against.

Ans. 3rd It appears that Friends are desirous, and in a good degree careful to bring up those under their care [illegible] to restrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation. [illegible] and to guard their children, [illegible] and in their families.

Ans. 4. Friends [illegible] and the use of spirituous liquors in [illegible] — have refrained frequenting of taverns and places of public resort, [illegible] ation and temperance on other occasions. —

Ans. 3d [illegible] Our children freely partake of learning. None stand out from among Friends.

Ans. 6th Parents and heads of families with the younger and unmarried seem to have some concern that proceeding with respect to marriage, shall be according to the requirements of the discipline; but several exceptions are mentioned

Ans. 7th It appears that Friends are mostly clear as to the several parts of this query; yet there are reported a few of the younger members, who have attended [illegible] of other religious societies.

Ans. 8th Friends are believed to be careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts, and endeavor to be punctual to their promises, just in the payment of their debts, and careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

Ans. 9th Records are attended to. No removals without certificates. —

Ans. 10th Friends continue to feel a concern on the important subject of this query; yet there has been a delay in timely attention in several cases.

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1879 At our Spring Meeting of Friends in New England held at Newport on Rhode Island. Commencing with public meetings for worship on first day the 15th of 6th month 1879 and on second day morning the 16th with meeting for discipline

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island, Salem, Dover and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings by which it appears the following named Friends are appointed representatives to attend this meeting. Namely from Rhode Island; Ethan Foster, Charles Perry, Jeremiah Foster, Jonathan Shaw and George Foster. From Salem, Dover, Sandwich and Weare [illegible]

From Sandwich Friends Isaac P. Miller and Sarah Ann Hussey
whose names being called they were all present and answered
thereto except two for whose absence a satisfactory reason was
given 1879

We appoint Francis Tabor Jeremiah Foster and Valentine
Meader a committee to prepare a statement of Answers
to the Queries and produce the same at a future sitting

Pole Island Quarterly meeting having informed this
Meeting that they proposed changing the place of
holding its sittings in the fifth month from that to
Salisbury and desiring the approval of this meeting
thereto, After Consideration this meeting approves of that
change and the Clerk is directed to furnish Pole Island
Quarterly Meeting with a copy of this minute; having
the unity of the Womens meeting herein

Our Friends. Valentine Meader of Salem & Dover Quarterly
Meeting, Isaac P. Miller of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting and
Charles Ivey and Johnw Barclay Foster of Pole Island
Quarterly Meeting are appointed a committee to examine
said settle for Treasurers account to propose a sum to
be raised for the use of this Meeting for the ensuing year if
is deemed necessary, to propose the name of a Friend
to serve as Treasurer for this year and report the same
at a future sitting

The representatives are requested to confer together
at the close of this sitting and propose the name of
a Friend to serve as Clerk and another to serve as
assistant Clerk for this year and report at the afternoon
sitting

Our dear Friend Ethan Foster the Clerk of
this meeting being detained at home by illness
it was deemed proper for the assistant clerk to note the
fact upon the records with a feeling of the near sympathy of this
Meeting for him in this his afflictive dispensation of Providence

1879 The meeting then adjourned to meet again at four o. clock this afternoon

Afternoon Friends met pursuant to adjournment

The names of the representatives being called they were present and answered to their names as at the morning sitting.

Jeremiah Foster on bihalf of the Representatives reported that they had met together and were united in proposing Jonathan Chace for Clerk and Isaac P Wilbur for assistant Clerk. Their names being separately considered were united with and they are according ly appointed to those stations for the ensuing year

The committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account, to propose a suitable sum to be raised for the use of the meeting for this year and to propose a Friend for Treasurer made the following report. Namely

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the treasurers account and for other purposes Report, that they have attended to that service and find that the accounts have been correctly kept and the proper vouchers filed; and that the balance now in the hands of the treasurer is thirty dollars.

It is recommended that, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of this meeting for the current year; the trustees of the Yearly Meeting House fund be authorized to draw and pay to the treasurer of this meeting such sum as may be found necessary for that purpose;

The Committee are united in proposing Thomas Perry for treasurer for treasurer of the meeting for the ensuing year On behalf of the Committee

Newport 6th month 12th 1879 Valentine Mott

which is satisfactory to this meeting and Thomas Perry is appointed treasurer of the meeting for the ensuing year and the trustees of the former treasurer fund with them are authorized to draw and pay to the treasurer such sums of money as necessary to defray the expenses of the meetings for the ensuing year

The Queries were read in this meeting together with the answers thereto. showing the state of the Society, and a summary of these having been prepared, and laid before the meeting at this time, it was also read approved, and directed to be recorded

Then adjourned to ten o'clock to morrow morning.

The day morning the seventeenth of the month. The meeting convened near the hour adjourned to.

The names of the representatives being called they were present and answered thereto as at the previous sittings

The records of the meetings for sufferings having been laid before the meeting at this time were read to our satisfaction, and it is the conclusion of this meeting to reappoint the friends who now constitute that meeting, to act in that capacity, and to constitute a meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, Except that the name of our friend Harvey Chace was dropped, he having by age and infirmity, become incapacitated for that service.

It is the conclusion of this meeting that the same provision for the payment of the boarding members who attend the Yearly Meeting, be made for next year, as was provided by minute of the last preceding years.

The clerk is directed to make all necessary extracts from the minutes of this meeting and to sign them on its behalf authorized

1879 And now, having been favoured to transact the
business of the Yearly Meeting in harmony and
brotherly condescension: thankful for the evidence of
Divine regard extended to us in our feeble and
stripped condition, the meeting concludes, purposing
to meet again on this Island next year, unless this
Meeting for Sufferings shall decide for cause, to
designate another place, in which case they are
desired to give Friends seasonable notice to that
effect

Jonathan Chace Clerk

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Summary of answers to the Queries for 1879

Ans 1st With a few exceptions occasioned by inclement weather
and the infirmities of the members, all our meetings for
worship and discipline have been duly held, and
attended by the greater
part of our members whose health would permit, yet
in some instances from unavoidable hindrances
the hour is nearly observed, and with the exception of
some appearances of sleeping at times, Friends are pre-
served from unbecoming behaviour therein.

Ans 2nd With the exception of one Monthly Meeting which
reports = "love and unity not well maintained
and a difference" which endeavours have been used to
end" - Love and unity appear to be maintained
and detraction guarded against. No other differences
are known amongst us.

Ans 3rd We think friends endeavour to bring up those
under their direction in plainness of speech behavior
and apparell to restrain them from pernicious
reading and from corrupt conversation, they appear
to be generally good examples herein themselves, and
the Holy Scriptures are believed to be frequently read
in their families

Ans 4th Friends are cautful to avoid the use of spirituous
liquors except for medicines, the unnecessary frequenting

of taverns and places of public resort and to keep in true moderation, and temperance on the several occasions refered to in the query.

Ans 5th We have none amongst us making resistance. Friends Children freely partake of learning, and none have been placed out from among friends

Ans 6th Parents and heads of families are in a good degree careful in their respects. One case of marrying out is reported under care, and one report states that there have been several cases of marrying out that have not been attended to.

Ans 8th Friends appear to be careful to discharge their offices and settle their accounts. So far as appears they are punctual to their promises, just in the payment of their debts and careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances

Ans 7th Friends appear to be mostly clear as to the several parts of this query, Yet a few of our younger members are reported to have attended meetings of other religious societies

Ans 9th Friends are careful as to records — no removals are reported without certificates.

Ans 10th Some case appears to be taken to deal with offenders in manner as queried after, and in place judgment according to discipline, but there are some cases which friends have not seen their way to take up. — the report from one meeting stating that this answers only to those who kindly attend our meetings

1880 At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island, Commencing with Public Meetings for worship on first day the 13th of 6th month 1880 and on second day morning the 14th with meetings for discipline

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island, Salem & Dover and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings by which it appears the following named Friends are appointed representatives to attend this meeting viz:- From Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting Stephen Foster, Jeremiah Foster, Thomas Peirce, Jonathan Peirce and Calvin H Foster From Salem & Dover, Valentine Meader and William Hill From Sandwich, Isaac P Wilbur Francis Tabor and Jesse Tucker whose names being called they were all present but two, one of whom has deceased since his appointment and for the absence of the other a satisfactory reason was assigned

It is appointed Jeremiah Foster, Francis Tabor and Isaac P. Wilbur a committee to prepare a summary of the answers to the queries and produce the same to a future sitting

We have in attendance at this meeting the acceptable Company of our beloved Friend Caleb Gregg with a satisfactory certificate from Bear Creek Monthly Meeting Iowa held the 13th of 5th month last, endorsed by Bear Creek Quarterly Meeting Iowa held at North Branch the 22nd of the same month, expressive of unity with his ministry and present religious engagements

Our Friends William J Wood and George Foster of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting and Isaac P Wilbur of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting are appointed a Committee to examine and settle the Treasurers accounts & to propose a sum to be raised for the use of this meeting for this year & they is deemed necessary & propose the name of a Friend to serve as Treasurer for this year and report the same at a future sitting

It is the sense of this meeting that we may now appoint a Committee to prepare, if way should open for it, an essay of an epistle, or epistles, to be addressed to the different bodies of Friends who have withdrawn from those who are laying waste the society by departing from its doctrines and practices as held by our Ancient Friends; and submit the same, if it be prepared, together with this ~~it~~ judgment as to which bodies it may be addressed — to a future sitting. We accordingly appoint our Friends. Ethan Foster, Francis Jabez, John F. Foster, Jeremiah Foster and John W Foster to that service

1880

The representatives are requested ~~to~~ ~~assemble~~ to confer together at the close of this sitting and propose the name of a Friend to serve as Clerk and another to serve as assistant Clerk for this year and report at the afternoon sitting

The meeting then adjourned to meet again at four O, clock this afternoon

Afternoon Friends met pursuant to adjournment

The names of the Representatives being called they were present and answered thereto as at the morning sitting

Jeremiah Foster on behalf of the Representatives reported that they had met together and were united in proposing Jonathan Chace for Clerk and Isaac P. Miller for assistant Clerk. Their names being severally considered, were united with and they were accordingly appointed to those stations for the ensuing year

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account. To propose a sum (if any) to be raised for the use of the meeting this year and to propose a Friend to Treasurer this year made the following report. Viz

To the Yearly meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes report:

1880

That they have attended to that service and find that the accounts have been correctly kept and the proper vouchers filed, and a balance due the Treasurer of One hundred and fifty and 36/100 Dollars.

It is recommended that to meet the expenses of the ensuing year, the Trustees of the Lynn Meeting House Fund be authorized to draw and pay to the Treasurer of this meeting such sums as may be found necessary for that purpose.

The committee are united in proposing Thomas Perry for Treasurer of this meeting for the ensuing year.

(Signed) On behalf of the Committee

William F Wood

Newport 8th month 14th 1880

Which is satisfactory to the meeting and Thomas Perry is appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year and the Trustees of the Lynn Meeting House Fund or either of them are authorized to draw from that fund and pay to the Treasurer such sums as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Yearly Meeting for the current year

The Queries were read in this meeting together with the answers from our several Quarterly Meetings, showing the state of the society and a summary having been prepared and laid before the meeting at this time, it was also read approved and directed to be recorded

The records of the meeting for sufferings having been laid before the meeting at this time, were read to our satisfaction and it is the conclusion of this meeting to re-appoint the Friends who now constitute that meeting (with the exception of our Friend Valentine Meader who is deceased) to act in that capacity and to constitute a meeting for sufferings for the ensuing year. But the number constituting a quorum of the meeting for sufferings is reduced from seven members to five

Then adjourned to ten o. clock tomorrow morning

Third day morning the 15th of the month met pursuant to adjournment

The names of the representatives being called they were present and answered to their names as at the previous sittings

1880

Two of the Trustees of the Lynn Meeting House Fund - George M Eddy and Valentine Meader - having been removed by death, leaving only one remaining trustee, the meeting concludes to add the names of James J Wilbur and Isaac P. Wilbur and they are appointed to that trust - and the Clerk is directed to furnish to them, to the surviving trustee and if necessary the Lynn Institution for Savings the proper certificate of their appointment

The following minute having been prepared in behalf our Friend Caleb Gregg and having been read in this meeting, the Clerk is left at liberty to sign it on behalf of the meeting and furnish him a copy thereof

"Our beloved Friend Caleb Gregg has attended this meeting with a satisfactory certificate from Deer Creek Monthly Meeting Iowa, held the 13th of 5th month last and from Deer Creek Quarterly meeting Iowa held at North Branch the 22d of the same month, expressing unity with his ministry and present religious engagements. His company and Gospel labours have been acceptable and edifying to us and the Clerk is directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute and sign it on our behalf

The company of our Friend Mellicent Gregg (who has been present with us as companion for her husband Caleb Gregg) her solid deportment and religious sympathies, have been a comfort and support to us; and the Clerk is directed to sign and furnish her a copy of this certificate on our behalf

The committee appointed on second day morning to prepare an essay of our epistle, or epistles, if may expedient thereafter, laid the following epistle before the meeting at this time with the recommendation that copies

1880

thereof be signed by the clerks of both the mens and womens meetings and addressed to our Friends of Western, Iowa and Kansas Yearly Meetings.

Vir. + To Western Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends

Dear Friends

Assembled once more in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting to deliberate on the welfare and best interests of our Religious Society, our dear absent brethren and sisters — those to whom the principles and testimonies of our forefathers are still dear, are brought to our remembrance, and we feel near sympathy and full unity with those wherever their lot may be cast; Although no way has opened for some years to communicate with each by epistolary correspondence; yet on sitting down together in this our annual meeting, our dear suffering friends wherever scattered, have been brought renewedly to our remembrance, with living desires for their preservation amid the storms and commotions, the turnings and overturnings of this eventful day in our society; being fully persuaded that the end is not yet, as also, of the truth of the declaration of our blessed Lord, while reminding his disciples of the trials which awaited them that "he that endureth unto the end the same shall be saved"

We are renewedly and abundantly convinced that the trials through which you are passing, are the same in kind and spring from the same root as those which have produced such devastation within our borders. viz A wide spread departure from the pure principles of our worthy and faithful predecessors in the unchangable truth, and which have led to practices equally inconsistent with those principles and entirely in accordance with this Change; And such as no true Friend can assent to. And now unto the little tried remnant wherever scattered up and down among those claiming the name of Friends, for such we believe there are; we would say lift up your heads in hope, for the day of your redemption draweth nigh — although you may feel much in the condition of the prophet when he made his complaint on the mountain saying "Lord they have slain thy prophets and digged down thine altars and I alone am escaped and they

seek my life to take it away" — How encouraging — how animating it must have been to him to be assured, that there was still left "Seven thousand in Israel who had not bowed the knee to Baal nor kissed his image" and so we believe there will be found among this people a little struggling remnant, who feel that they have no might nor strength of their own; who are going mourning on their way for the desolations of Zion — who are hanging their harps upon the Willows in the midst thereof. who are weeping as between the porch and the altar and crying "Spare thy people O Lord and give not thine heritage to reproach." As these continue to persevere in their tribulated path, in faith and in patience, we feel assured that He without whose notice not a sparrow falls to the ground, will in his own good time make bare his everlasting arm for their deliverance and when the days of their trials shall have been ended, cause them to come forth with joy and rejoicing bringing their sheaves with them

1880

After having been read and weighty considered, it was approved and the clerk is directed to sign it on behalf of this meeting and forward copies to those to dis[illegible]ted having the approval of the womens meeting hereto.

It is the conclusion of the meeting that the same provision in regard to the payment of the board of Members attending the yearly meeting who are in unity with us, be made for this year as was made by minute the last preceding years

The clerk is directed to make all necessary extracts from the minutes of this meeting and authorized to sign them on its behalf

Having been enabled to transact the business of of the meeting with a good degree of Unity and harmony and feeling deeply humbled under a sense of our feeble and stripped condition. Again thankful for the evidences of Divine favour which have been dispensed unto us. We conclude, purposing to meet again on this island at the usual time next year if consistent with the Divine Will

Jonathan Chace Clerk

1880 **Summary of answers to the Queries for 1880.**

Answer 1st All our meetings for religious worship and discipline have been attended, — those on first day by Friends generally who are in a capacity to attend: Midweek meetings and some for discipline are neglected by a number of our members. The hour is nearly observed. A few instances of sleeping noticed. No other unbecoming behaviour noticed when assembled.

Answer 2d A deficiency in love and unity in one Monthly meeting is noticed. In other meetings they appear to be maintained; Where differences have arisen, endeavours have been used to end them.

Answer 3rd We think Friends have a desire and exercise some care to bring up those under their direction in plainness of speech, behavior and apparel and to restrain them from reading pernicious books and corrupt conversation. Most Friends are exemplary herein themselves, and we believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their families

Answer 4th Friends abstain from the use of spirituous liquors except for medicine, the ~~unnecessary~~ frequenting of places of public resort, and keep in moderation and temperance as far as appears on all occasions.

Answer 5th None among ^us appear to require assistance — No Children placed from among Friends.

Answer 6th Friends feel a concern to maintain the important requirements of this query, but there are some cases of marrying out of the order of ^the society that have not been attended to

Answer 7th We believe Friends are mostly clear as to the several parts of this query — Yet there are a few of the younger members who have attended meetings of other societies.

Answer 8th Friends are believed to be careful to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts, ~~as~~ far as appears they are punctual to their promises, just in the payment of their debts and careful to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

1880

Answer 9th

Our records are attended to, & removals without certificates

Answer 10th

Friends continue to feel a concern on this important subject of this query. Yet there has been a delay in timely attention in several cases. Of late no way has seemed open to proceed with them and no judgement has been passed since our last Accounts

---

1881

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island commencing with public meetings for worship on first day the 12th of 6th month 1881 and on second day morning the 13th with meetings for discipline

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island, Salem & Dover and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings by which it appears the following named friends are appointed representitives from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarters — Salem & Dover having appointed no representitives on account their reduced numbers —

From Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting Thomas Foster Charles Tripp Jeremiah Peter Thomas Perry and Samuel Sheffield. From Sandwich Quarterly meeting Isaac P Wilbur Francis Jabor and Jesse Tucker

Those who were appointed were all present and answered to their names except two who were prevented from being present by Sickness

Charles H Rider and Benjamin F Dixon of Upper Rock Monthly meeting of Friends, Kansas being acceptably present with us and having certificates from that monthly meeting that they were members thereof in good Unity and were recommended from the care of Friends wherever they may come.

Their certificates were separately read in this meeting to our satisfaction and comfort

1881

There were received and read at this time Epistles of Christian salutation and love from each of the Yearly Meetings of Western, Kansas and Iowa, each having a language of encouragement sympathy and comfort and holding forth a desire that all, wherever situated, who are concerned to support the ancient doctrines and testimonies of truth in their purity, whether in the capacity of individuals or bodies, may be drawn into a closer unity and fellowship -

We have been strengthened and encouraged, the reading of these, having been as a cup of cold water to him who is athirst

Elisha Foster John H Cator Francis Tabor Jeremiah Foster and Jonathan Chace were appointed a committee to unite with a committee of Women Friends in preparing essays of epistles to each Western, Kansas and Iowa Yearly Meetings and to produce the same at a future sitting

We appoint our friends Isaac P Wilbur Jeremiah Foster and Francis Tabor a committee to prepare a summary of the answers to the queries and produce the same at a future sitting

John B Taber George C Foster Isaac P Wilbur and James T Wilbur are appointed a committee to examine and settle the Treasurers account - to report as near as may be the situation of the Yearly Meetings funds and their amount; propose a time to be united for the use of the meeting for the ensuing year if any be necessary and to propose a Friend to serve the meeting as Treasurer for the ensuing year and to report at a future sitting

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings having been laid before this meeting - the proceedings of that meeting the past year were read to our satisfaction and the Friends who were composed that meeting -

with the exception of our late friend William Hill who is deceased

capacity for the ensuing year. Viz Charles Perry Samuel Sheffield Ethan Foster Jesse Tucker Thomas Perry Isaac P Wilbur John M Foster Jeremiah Foster George Foster William J Wood Jonathan Chase and

The representatives are requested to confer together at the rising of this sitting and propose

Clerk for the ensuing year and also of one for

The meeting adjourned to meet at four o'clock this afternoon

at the morning sitting

reported that they had conferred together and were united in recommending the appointment of

ensuing year and Isaac P Wilbur for assistant Clerk. Their names having been separately

until others are appointed in their

at the morning sitting to examine and settle the Treasurers account and for other business and the following report viz

account

1881

attended to that service and find that the accounts
[illegible] correctly kept and vouchers filed.

It appears that the amount now in the treasury
is Ninety one 1/100 Dollars. It is recommended that
to meet the expenses of the current year the trustees
[illegible] Meeting House fund be authorized to
loan and pay to the treasurer of this meeting such
sum or sums [illegible] necessary for that purpose.

The committee are united in proposing
[illegible] for
year

On behalf of the Committee

[illegible]

Adopted 12mo. 13. 1881

[illegible] and [illegible] were accordingly appointed treasurers for the ensuing year [illegible]

[illegible] of the Meeting House at Newport by the Yearly Meeting, its condition and the rent paid ~~therefor~~ for its use having come before the meeting - it was concluded to refer the whole subject to the meeting for Sufferings to be properly arranged and that meeting is further desired to [illegible] into the condition, control and management of all the various trusts which properly [illegible] under the care of the Yearly Meeting and to spread the result [illegible] when it rounds

William Hill one of the trustees of the Lynn Meeting House fund having [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] is appointed to that [illegible] directed to call the necessary [illegible] [illegible] holding the funds of [illegible]

answer the queries in our Subordinate Meetings loosely - but faithfully, Clearly and truly; in ordu that- we may so encourage and correct one another and ~~by best help~~ fmadventure by best help be somewhat built up

meetings which were read and after a season of solid deliberation thereon they were adopted and the Clerk was directed to sign them on behalf of this meeting and forward them to the meetings respectively. The several meetings meeting there

Salem and Deer Quarterly meeting having united with its records a request to record the names of Friends removing to that meeting that it should be discontinued, it was concluded to have said names recorded and Friends thereof informed by this Quarterly meeting having the unity of the several meetings - the Clerk is directed to inform Little Falls and Crooked Quarterly meetings of the action of this Quarterly meeting

1881

It is the conclusion of this meeting that the same provision for the payment of the board of members who are in unity with us and in attendance at this meeting as have been adopted by previous Yearly Meetings

[illegible] that the Clerk of Yearly Meeting assembled

The names of the representatives being called they were [illegible] and [illegible] to the business sitting

The Clerk having informed this meeting of the probability of his being absent during a large part of the year [illegible] the appointment of [illegible] and that they should sign and forward the Epistles which have been adopted - which were united with and Ethan Foster and Lemuel Willcox were appointed to that service

It appearing from the communications had by our friends from Kansas Charles W Ridge and Benjamin F Dixon with some of those who will leave from this meeting on [illegible] that they, or some of them desire to be remitted with us - it concurred to prevail in the meeting that we should meet the opening in a spirit of Christian Charity and Condescension. [illegible] our friends Lucas P Wilbur, Joshua H Foster, Ethan Foster [illegible] and Samuel Tabor together with such other friends as this annual meeting may appoint, if any, were appointed a committee on behalf of this meeting to confer with those friends as may [illegible] for it and Lucas such salary as in their wisdom they may be enabled to do in order for the restoration of true unity and harmony concerning all matters [illegible] we are encouraged to labor the same shepherd and heed the same voice - and to report to this meeting next year

1881

The Committee appointed to draft a minute of
of our friends Edward H Fuller and Benjamin
F Dixon who have been removed at the several
sittings of this meeting have the same prepared
& read

The Clerk is directed to make the necessary
extracts from the minutes of this meeting and
exchanged to each of them on his behalf

Having been favoured to; once more hold
our Yearly Meeting - (though small in number)
Under a humbling sense of poverness and of
our total extinction but in a good degree of harmony
and Brotherly Love one towards another which is much
better; With a feeling of thankfulness for the
evidences of Divine favour vouchsafed unto us;
the meeting closed, purposing to meet again in this
Island at the usual time next year if consistent
with the Divine will.

Signed Nathan Luther Clerk

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## Summary of answers to the Queries for 1881

Ans 1st

Our meetings for worship and discipline have been
attended as well as for many in Rhode Island and
Salem and Dover Quarterly Meetings, which were
omitted on account of sickness on some of the Quarterly
Meetings; there are four first days & Fifth days
Mid week meetings more neglected by a few - The hour
nearly observed - A few instances of absenting are re-
-ported in one of the answers - No other unbecoming
behavior

Ans 2nd

Love and unity appear to be pretty well main-
tained though some exceptions is made in our
Quarterly Meetings Queries against.
Some few have taken a wrong difference

Ans. 3rd Friends endeavour to bring up those under their care in plainness of speech behaviour and apparel: to restrain them from reading fictitious books and from corrupting conversation and are generally exemplary themselves. The Holy Scriptures we believe are frequently read in Friends families

Ans 4th Friends are careful as to spirituous liquors and we think kept in moderation on the occasions referred to.

Ans 5th None among us appear to need pecuniary aid. No Children placed out.

Ans 6th Our testimonies in regard to marriages appear to be pretty well maintained. Yet a few exceptions are noticed in our meeting

Ans 7th A few cases are noticed of the younger members attending meetings out from among Friends. No other exceptions to the observance of this query.

Ans 8th Most of our members are careful in these respects.

Ans 9th The records are mostly attended to. No removals without certificates.

Ans 10th Some care is taken to deal with offenders in the spirit provided after and judgement often placed has been according to discipline

Copy

From the Epistle to the Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Burlington in West Jersey, by the Meeting of the same date.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends

Dear Friends,

In the remembrance of that dear which ... time ... ... ...

1881

perverse generation, and which through them
and their faithful ancestors have been handed
down to us, and for the maintenance of which
we are no less responsible than they.

The fact that the present undertaking
is serious proof of our existence as a people, a day
when the enemy of all good has been suffered
to come in as a flood, and as consequence we
afford proof of the unfaithfulness so prevalent
amongst us, to turn away many from the true
faith on the right hand and on the left — a day
whereunto may be said of the faithful followers
of the Lamb that "it is given them on behalf of
Christ not only to believe on His name but also
to suffer for His sake." We do not feel, dear friends
that it is needful for us to multiply words at
this time. Suffice it to say that in taking
a review of the present unstated state of the
Church and to some extent of the world, we
feel to exhort all who are making a profession
under our name, at this time of commotion,
to retire inward and endeavour so much as in
them lies to dwell more in the true source and
fountain of all good — to cease from all depend-
ence on man whose breath is in his nostrils,
and to place it more exclusively upon Him in
whom is everlasting strength; and who has
promised that at the evening tide there shall be
light, and at the morning watch He will arise.

In an especial manner have we been introduced
into near sympathy with a tribulated remnant
in your land who are going through fiery
trials for the testimony of Jesus, and to
whom the truth as believed in and upheld by
our worthy predecessors is dearer than any
earthly treasure. With these we have kindled
in the fellowship of suffering, desiring above

all things that their faith may not fail in the
day of treading down and perplexity.
How strikingly applicable to these wherever their 18f)
lot may be cast, is the encouraging of the inspired
apostle. Brethren think it not strange concerning
the fiery trial which is to try you, as
though some strange thing had happened unto
you; but rejoice inasmuch as ye are made
partakers of Christs sufferings, that when
His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad
also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached
for the name of Christ, happy are ye for
the spirit of glory and of God rests
upon you; on their part He is evil spoken
of but on your part He is glorified; wherefore let
them that suffer according to the will of God
commit the keeping of their souls unto Him
in well doing as unto a faithful Creator.
How acceptable should be the meeting
for sufferings to which has been wafted amongst
us at this time the savour of which was felt to
be as life unto life. Our meeting though small
has been at times favored with the sensible over
shadowing of Heavenly good owning that Gr. Head
of the Church is still mindful of us poor and
unworthy as we are. May it become our
united endeavour to render unto Him that
tribute of gratitude and love which is ever due
to Him from and Holy name. Let us pray
[illegible] that we may be found about us to build us
up in the most holy faith and in Him and to
give us an inheritance among them that are
sanctified.
Signed by direction and on behalf of our Yearly
Meeting. —

Copy

1881 From New England Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 11th to the 14th of month 1881.

To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends.

Dear Friends,

Having been permitted again to assemble for the purpose of transacting the affairs of our religious society and of mingling together in feeling and sentiment therein, we feel to address our dear absent brethren and sisters, under a feeling of that love that knows no bounds, even the love of God our Christ Jesus our Lord who died for us and while we are assured even liveth to make intercession for us. Under a sense of our best and sacred obligations thus comforting as this assurance and encouraging to the weary pilgrim, whose face is set Zionward — to endeavor to persevere in the pathway of holiness, the end of which is everlasting life.

We have been brought at this time sensibly to remember the many seasons of trial and conflict which some of this little body now living years that are past have called to endure and also those in other parts of the heritage who have viewed things in the same light — and accepted the same ground of our ancient profession with us.

Your acceptable epistle of 10th month last has been received and read to our satisfaction and comfort. We are not strangers to the trials of which you speak, as having undergone in becoming separated from some who run and reject the innovations that have been made on our ancient pure principles and order by letting in a spirit of giving too fast —

are in danger of being led, by their continuance in the mixture, and thus becoming
[illegible] into it — and we write with pain
in the desire expressed that the scattered
remnants, not only of those who have become
separated from the old organizations, but of
those still remaining therein, who are going
mourning on their way for the dwellings
of Jesus, may yet be gathered and we again
become a people such as once flourished more.
But while there are evidences of an awakening on the part of some to a sense of our
condition as a people, yet there has appeared
it seems to be on the part of some others who
have hitherto been valiant for the truth and
against the inroads of error, a disposition
manifested like some formerly to turn their
backs in the day of battle; of whom it was
said, "they kept not the covenant of God,
and refused to walk in His law and forgat
His works, and His wonders that He had
shewed them." A concern on this account
has been felt by Friends and spread over us
at this time, under which we have believed it incumbent on us to appeal
to our beloved friends to stand willing
and resigned to come up to the help of
the Lord against the mighty — to shun
no sacrifice that may be called for at
their hands, in assisting to repair the
breaches in the walls of our Zion that
we may not be wholly exposed to
the ravages of the destroyer.

We have had recently brought to our remembrance at this time some of those valiants
on the Lord's side who were among the
first to rise and bear testimony against
the inroads of error which the enemy
was making in our ranks — who stood
in the forefront of the battle during the

1851

[illegible] kind example which the Church has
[illegible] lately been called to [illegible] who counted
nothing too dear and too [illegible] to sacrifice
in the cause of truth and righteousness —
who through evil report and good report,
stood unfaltering for the right and the
true, for the law and the testimony; and who
failed not in the face of opposition and
misery on the right hand and on the
left, to bear a faithful testimony against
the errors and false attacks which were
being made on those ancient and heavenly
pure principles and testimonies of our wor-
thy predecessors. Having thus borne this tes-
timony and done they sealed it with their
latest breath; and then were permitted to
lay down their heads in peace to rejoice in
those [illegible] above and exercise in the
church militant and in the assurance
full and effected, that an entrance was
abundantly administered unto them into the
joys of the Blessed Immortal. Their faithful
labors, their patient endurance, their holy life
and peaceful death have brought them afresh
to our remembrance at this time, and having
desires have been raised in our minds, that
that we may [illegible] more closely upon
the principles and example of those faith-
ful followers of a crucified Lord, that
that we may be awakened and animated
thereby, to endeavor to follow them as they fol-
lowed Christ; that we may run finish our course
with joy and lay down our heads in peace as they
have done.

Signed by direction and on
behalf of the Yearly Meeting

Copy

Minute from England Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Manchester 1st. by adjournment from the 17th of the 6th Mo. 1811 to the 19th of the same inclusive.

To some Yearly Meeting of Ancient Form Friends

Dear Friends,

Assembled once more for the purpose of conferring together, and transacting the weighty affairs of the Church, we have been comforted, encouraged and strengthened by the reading of your truly epistle of 10th Mo. last. We have also received and read at this time Epistles from our dear friends of Western and Eastern Yearly Meetings. The solemn covering which spread over our meeting, after the reading of these satisfactory from our dear brethren, has confirmed us in the belief that an interchange of feeling and concern by epistolary correspondence is evidently a work rightly engaged in and carried on under the influence and by the promptings of the one spirit, which baptizeth all the living members into the one body, even into Christ the Head of the Church.

We have deeply sympathized with you in your peculiar trials inseparably connected with the scattered and degraded condition of our once favored and still beloved society. And you have no doubt with us at times been made to commiserate the condition of the prophet, when for lack of vision of the people, he was compelled to "eat the roll and swallow it and withal with lamentation mourning and woe." But in these seasons of depression and discouragement, how consoling to remember that the foundation stand sure, and that

1881

more are excluded from building thereon.
That it has been and remains to be,
the privilege of the faithful followers of a
crucified Lord to flee unto Him in every
season of danger and distress, and to find
in Him a refuge from the storm, and a
hiding place from the tempest. We therefore
feel in our small measure a renewed engage-
ment to encourage our beloved brethren wher-
ever scattered, to hold fast the profession of
our faith without wavering, remembering the
end thereof, even the salvation of their souls.
And, dear friends, while we may thus feel like
lifting up our petition to the Most High that
"He would" "spare His people and give not His
heritage to reproach" — Prayer we realize that
is only as we are willing to perform the required
labor that we can expect the blessing — that
it is by "faithful continuance in well doing that
we can unfeignedly seek for glory, honor immor-
tality and eternal life. We affectionately in-
vite all our dear brethren and sisters to examine
their standing and scrutinize their motives, that
so it may be said of them, as of a tried people
formerly "for the divisions of Reuben there were
great searchings of heart." Thus may we not
confidently trust that in the Lord's own time
He will arise for our help — that the breaches
in the walls of our Zion be again repaired
and Jerusalem become a quiet habitation.

Signed by direction and
on behalf of the Yearly Meeting

1882.

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island, commencing with public Meeting for worship on first day the 11th of 6th Mo. 1882. and on second day morning the 12th with meetings for discipline

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings by which it appears the following named Friends are appointed representatives, from Rhode Island Ethan Foster Samuel Sheffield Charles Perry Jeremiah Foster Thomas Perry and John B Foster, From Sandwich, Francis Tobey, Eli Tucker and Isaac P Wilbur, whose names being called they were all present and answered thereto

The Clerk of this meeting being absent Jeremiah Foster. The Clerk of the meeting for discipline was appointed in accordance with a provision of the Discipline

We have in the continuance of this meeting, the acceptable company of our beloved friend William Robinson of Ohio from Western Yearly Meeting of Friends held 9th Mo. 21st 1881

We have also the acceptable company of our beloved friend Ruth Ann Canton with a certificate from Red Union Monthly Meeting of Friends held near Morgan Co. Indiana 5th Mo. 10th of the present year, and one from White Lick Quarterly Meeting held at the same place 5th Mo. 13th both expressive of unity with her ministry and present practice of religious service

We are favored with the company of our friends Julian Evans and his wife Sarah Ann Johnson companions to our friend Ruth Ann Canton with satisfactory certificates given for them by a committee of Red Union Monthly Meeting of Friends held 5th Mo. 25th 1882 is also acceptable to us

An Epistle was received at this time from our friend Lewis Taber of Ohio, who not being a correspondent; Ethan Foster and Charles Perry are appointed a committee to examine the said document and report at our next sitting

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting inform in their account that they have united with South Kingstown Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Samuel Foster and Sarah Perry to the station of Elders

John B Foster, Francis Tobey and George White are appointed a committee to prepare a summary of the answers to the queries and produce the same to a future sitting

William F Wood Isaac P Wilbur and George C Foster are appointed
a committee to examine and settle the Treasurers account, propose
1882 a sum to be raised for the use of this meeting for the ensuing year
if any be necessary, and to propose a friend to serve this meeting as
Clerk for the year ensuing and report at a future sitting

The records of the meeting for Sufferings having been laid
before this meeting were read: and the proceedings of that meeting
the past year approved, and the friends who now compose that
Meeting are reappointed to that service, with the addition of
James T Wilbur, for the ensuing year: namely, Charles Perry,
Samuel Sheffield, Ethan Foster, Jesse Tucker, Thomas Perry,
Isaac P Wilbur, John W Foster, Francis Taber, Jeremiah Foster
George Foster, William F Wood and Jonathan Chace

The representatives are requested to confer together at the close
of this sitting and agree upon a suitable friend to serve this
meeting as Clerk, and report to this meeting for assistant Clerk, and report
the same at the opening of the meeting this afternoon

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon

Afternoon. Near the hour adjourned to Friends again assembled
Ethan Foster on behalf of the representatives, report that they
had conferred together and were united in recommending the name
of Isaac P Wilbur for Clerk, and of Thomas Perry for assistant
Clerk, whose names being solemnly considered were united
with, and they are accordingly appointed to those stations
respectively

Received and read this time Epistles of Christian salutation
and love from each of the Yearly Meetings, viz, Western, Kansas
and Iowa, each bearing language of encouragement, sympathy
and comfort which is satisfactory to us

Ethan Foster, Francis Taber, Charles Perry, and John W Foster are
appointed a committee to unite with a committee of Women Friends
in preparing essays of epistles to each, Western, Kansas, and Iowa
Yearly Meetings, and produce the same to a future sitting if
way opens to do so

The committee appointed this morning to examine the epistle
from Lewis Taber report that in their judgment it might be
read: the reading of which is satisfactory to us, and our corres
pondents are directed to inform the writer that his acceptable

[illegible] was read and [illegible] consent and direction
the Queries were read at this time together with the answers thereto
from our Quarterly Meetings descriptive of the state of Society therein
and a summary of the answers having been laid before this Meeting
it was also read and after engageing the serious attention and
concern of the Meeting it was adopted

Adjourned to the 11th hour tomorrow morning

Third day morning the 13th of the Month the Meeting convened
pursuant to adjournment

The names of the representatives having been called they
were present and answered thereto except one for whose
absence a satisfactory reason was given

The committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurer
account and for other purposes made the following report viz.

[illegible] Monthly Meeting held

The committee appointed to examine
and settle the Treasurers account, report that they have attended
to that service, and find that the accounts have been correctly
kept, and the proper vouchers filed and that the balance in the
hands of the Treasurer is Fifty and 89/100 dollars. It is recommen
ded that to meet the expenses of the ensuing year the Trustees
of the Lynn Meeting house and be authorized to draw and pay
to the Treasurer of this Meeting such sum as may be found nec
essary for that purpose

The committee are united in proposing Thomas
Perry for treasurer of the meeting for the ensuing year

On behalf of the Committee Wm F. Wood

Newport 6th Mo. 13th 1882

which was united with and Thomas Perry is accordingly appointed
Treasurer of this meeting for the ensuing year

The subject of the payment of board by those in attendance at
the next yearly Meeting coming before us at this time, it was
concluded to refer the whole matter to the attention of this
Meeting for Sufferings, requesting them, after an examination
of the expediency of so doing to come to a decision thereon
and notify our members accordingly

[illegible] Friends appointed yesterday to [illegible] essays [illegible]

are also directed if way open for it to prepare essays of returning minutes on behalf of our friends who are now with us with
1882 certificates from meetings within the limist of other Yearly Meetings

[illegible] appointed last year to confer with those friends [illegible] Meeting in [illegible] made report but [illegible] that way does not seem to be open at present to proceed therein and [illegible] they are accordingly relieved from further care

Adjourned to the fifth hour this afternoon

Afternoon near the time appointed friends again assembled

[illegible] Epistles from [illegible] Yearly Meeting held at Sugar Grove, Hendricks Co Indiana, Kansas Yearly Meeting held at Lawrence, Kansas, and Iowa Yearly Meeting held at Oskaloosa, Mahaska County Iowa have been prepared by the committee appointed to that service; were introduced and read and having been [illegible] considered were approved and the clerk is directed to sign and forward copies thereof to those meetings respectively

The following returning minutes prepared by the same committee in behalf of our friends now in attendance of this meeting with certificates were read and being considered were approved and the clerk is directed to furnish them with copies thereof accordingly

Our beloved friend William Robinson attended this meeting by appointment of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends held 9th Mo. 21st 1881. His company and gospel labors have been acceptable and Edifying to us. And the clerk is directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute

Our beloved friend Ruth Ann Stanton attended this meeting with certificate from West Union Monthly Meeting held near Marovia, [illegible] 5th Mo. 1882. Her company and gospel labors have been acceptable and edifying to us. and the clerk is directed to furnish her with a copy of this minute.

Our beloved friend Sarah Ann Johnson an Elder attended this meeting as companion to Ruth Ann Stanton with a certificate of concurrence from a committee of West Union Monthly Meeting of Friends held near Marovia 5th Mo. 25th 1882 — Her company

and solid deportment have been acceptable to us and the clerk is directed to furnish her with a copy of this minute 1882

Our beloved friend Mahlon Johnson attended this Meeting with a certificate from a committee of Fair Haven Monthly Meeting of Friends held near Moravia 5th Mo. 25th 1882 – His company and solid deportment have been acceptable to us, and the clerk is directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute

The clerk is directed to make all necessary copies from the minutes of this meeting and authorized to sign them on its behalf

Having been favoured once more to accomplish the weighty concerns which have claimed the attention of the meeting in a near feeling of unity and condescension under an humbling sense thereof; we conclude purposing to meet again at the usual time on this Island next year if Consistent with the Divine will

Isaac P Wilbur Clerk

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Summary of answers to the Queries for 1882

All our meetings for religious worship have been held on First day Ans 1st
except four where the members belonging were small and scattered,
and by friends generally when health would permit; but it appears that three or more preparative Meetings and a number of the midweek meetings have not been held in the small meetings, and that their attendance have been neglected by a number of our members, One account report a few instances of drowsiness No other unbecoming behavior observed

Love and unity appear to be maintained, and detraction Ans 2nd
guarded against, by nearly all our members, where differences have arisen endavors have been used to end them

We think Friends are desireous and exercise some care to bring Ans 3
up those under their direction in plainness of speech behavior and apparel and to restrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation. Some Friends are examplary herein themselves and we believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their families

Friends abstain from the use of Spirituous liquors except Ans 4th
for medicine; the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort; and endeavour to keep in moderation and temperance on all occasions

Ans 5th [illegible] 1882 placed out, from among Friends

Ans 6th Friends appear to be generally careful in regard to the subject of this query yet there is some want of care reported

Ans 7th We believe most friends are clear in the several parts of this [illegible] a few of the younger members who attend Meetings of other societies

Ans 8th It is believed Friends inspect their affairs and settle their accounts; are punctual to their promises, and just in the payment of their debts; and endeavor to live within the bounds of their circumstances

Ans 9th One Quarterly Meeting reports some deficiencies in regard to the [illegible]

Ans 10th Friends appear to feel a concern, and use some care to deal with offenders as queried after. Yet there has been two or three cases of marrying [illegible]

Copy

From the [illegible] Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Portsmouth on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 10th day of the 6th month to the 13th of same inclusive 1882

To Western Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends next to be held in Indiana

Dear Friends

We have at this time received your epistle [illegible] and it has been read in our yearly Meeting with satisfaction and comfort tending as we feel it does to strengthen and encourage us in an endeavor to uphold the principals and testimonies of Truth as promulgated by the early Friends.

With the [illegible] we [illegible] you as of the same household of faith; holding the truth of the Gospel of Christ for which they endured so great hardship. It is indeed very gratifying to us to receive such testimonials from our [illegible] to be diligent in the discharge of their faithfulness to apprehended duty in the most important concern

We feel that it is through unmerited mercy that we are again [illegible] in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting wherein desires have been renewedly raised for our preservation as a people in this day of probation and trial. It is a day in

which the enemy of all good seemes to have entered our once peaceful 1882
and happy enclosure, and by his subtle and crafty insinuations and
devices led away great numbers from the fold of Israels Shepherd, perswadeing
them as he did our primeval parents to disregard the Divine requiring and
causing them to believe that the threatned penalties for disobedience were
untrue: and thus plunged them into degration and misery. He still remains
our deadly enemy, and is no less wiley and crafty in turning us away from
the Truth now, than he was then, He would fain persuade us that the way
of the cross [illegible] and his faithful followers to this present
day is a hard way, That it subjects those who walk therein to unnecessary
trials, and that there is an easier way to the haven of rest than the straight
and narrow way. Thus he lures them into the broad way that leadeth
to distruction from among the many who go in thereat; But let us rem-
ember that he was a liar from the beginning and abode not in the Truth.
Let us cleave unto the Holy One whose promises are yea and amen; sealed
by the sufferings and blood of the martyrs in every age of the world: and
[illegible] and renewed by our faithful predeces-
sors through great tribulation suffering and death, transmitted to us as a
sacred inheritance for the keeping of which we shall most assuredly be held
accountable; Among your own selves" said the apostle "shall men arise up
speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them." And so we find it
in our once favored society; men have risen up among ourselves speaking
perverse things to draw the weak and unwary away from the pure Truth as it
is in Jesus. But let us remember that we have had those among us who could
say with the same apostle, We have ceased not to warn you of these things
night and day with tears; And now let us beware how we turn, as many have
done, a deaf ear to these warnings, but however small and despised our numbers,
unite together in upholding those great and sublime gospel truthes of our worthy
and faithful predecessors; for truly they have been the means in the Divine
Hand of leading thousands safe; and notwithstanding the covert and open opposition
to and rejection of them by many under our name we unshakenly believe they will
yet thousands more. The three survivors of the Committee of your Yearly Meeting
who were appointed to visit this meeting with another friend as their companion
[illegible] visit to us were most cordially received by us, and the ministry
of those who occupy that most important station has been very comforting
and edifying to us. With near regard and brotherly love we are your friends
in the bonds of the gospel
Signed by direction and on behalf of our Yearly Meeting

Copy

1882 From New England Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Newport
[illegible] to the 13th of the same inclusive - 1882
To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends

There are times and seasons when the members of a meeting collected for the purpose of transacting the weighty affairs of the Church are bound truly low in a sense of their inability to do or say anything that can promote the Glory of God by building up each other in the most Holy faith. - Such have been our feelings since we have assembled at this time - But blessed be the name of the Lord, in our stripped and humbled condition we have been made to realize that He has not forgotten to be gracious, and that His tender mercies are over all His works - Your brotherly Epistle has been read to our comfort and encouragement - We have also received from our dear Friends in Iowa and Western Yearly Meetings Epistles expressive of their earnest Godly care for us, and the Church at large. - We have had the acceptable company of a few dear Friends from other Yearly Meetings. Thus our little company have received the tokens of divine regard - And have made to feel glad that the way is opening for the bond of Love and Fellowship to be renewed between us and manifest Himself as in days of old, to be the shadow of a great Rock in a weary land

We have renewedly felt at this time the importance of a deep unity and fellowship among all the scattered and divided remnants of Friends - especially of those who are sound in the faith - and are desirous to be engaged in the Lords way and time to rebuild the walls of Zion that are broken down - and restore the Gates that have been burned with fire. Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity - It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aarons beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion for there the Lord commanded the blessings, even life forever more - In conclusion we feel to say to Friends [illegible] be of good comfort be of one mind live in peace and the God of love and peace shall be with you

Signed on behalf and by direction of our Yearly Meeting

on Rhode Island from the 10th of sixth month to the 13th of the same inclusive 1882

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends

Dear Friends

Your acceptable epistle of 9th month last has been received and read to our comfort and encouragement; and it tends to bring our dear absent friends more vividly and feelingly to our remembrance accompanied by living desires for their preservation in this day of treading down and perplexity - a day wherein it seems peculiarly given as on behalf of Christ not only to believe on his name but also to suffer for his sake. The straight and narrow way cast up for the ransomed and redeemed of the Lord to walk in, and which was chosen and adopted by our faithful predecessors, leads too much in the way of the cross for the feet of the unregenerate man; hence is turned from by the mass of professors in this day of [illegible] everlasting rest and peace is attempted to be carved or reasoned out, and may there be up and down among those calling themselves Friends who are trying to persuade themselves that they may still be justly called by that name, while they conform to the ways, manners and maxims of a sinful world. In this degenerate state, they lose all relish for the original doctrines and testimonies of this society, and thus so far wander therefrom as to become bewildered, taking darkness for light and light for darkness until they become lost in the mazy Labyrinth of speculation and unbelief. - Let us then each by continued watchfulness unto prayer seek to escape this slough of despond into which the enemy of all good is striving to decoy the members of this once favored society.

Our meetings though very small has at times been favored with the overshadowing of heavenly good, tending greatly to the renewing of our spiritual thoughts and to unite us together in the fellowship of the gospel, and in the bonds of peace

Thank God for this, the praise is his alone

With the salutation of love and in the fellowship of the gospel we are your friends

Signed on behalf and by direction
of our Yearly Meeting

1883 At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Newport on Rhode Island commencing with Public Meeting [illegible] morning the 11th with meeting for discipline

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island and Sandwich Quarterly Meetings by which it appears the following named friends are appointed representatives. from Rhode Island Charles Perry. George Foster. Ethan Foster. Thomas Perry and Jeremiah Fos From Sandwich Francis Taber. Jesse Tucker and Isaac P Wilbur wh names being called they were all present and answered thereto excepting one

Received and read at this time an Epistle from Kansas Yearly Meeting bearing language of en[illegible] and comfort which is satisfactory to us

Ethan Foster John W Foster. Charles Perry George Foster and Jonath Chace are appointed a committee to unite with a committee of [illegible] and Iowa Yearly Meetings and produce the same to a future sitti if way opens to do so

Francis Taber George C Foster and Jeremiah Foster are appointed a committee to prepare a summary of the answers to the queries and produce them to a future session

William F Wood. James I Wilbur and George C Foster are appointed a committee to examine and settle the Treasurers account. propose a [illegible] to be raised for the use of the meeting for the ensueing year if any be necessary - and propose a Friend to serve the meeting as Treasurer for the ensueing year and report at a future sitting

[illegible] of the meeting for [illegible] was read. and the proceedings of this meeting the past year

[illegible] appointed to that service for the ensueing year

[illegible] to meet together at the close of this sitting and [illegible] a Friend to serve the meeting as clerk. and [illegible] to meet and hold the same at the opening of the meeting this afternoon

Adjourned to the [illegible] this [illegible]

[illegible] the time appointed Friends again assembled

The names of the representatives being called they were all present and answered thereto 1883

Ethan Foster on behalf of the representatives report that they had confered together and were united in proposing the name of Isaac P Wilbur for clerk and of Thomas Perry for assistant clerk whose names being separately considered were united with and they are accordingly appointed to those stations respectively

The Queries were read at this time together with the answers thereto from our Quarterly Meetings descriptive of the state of society therein and a summary of the answers having been laid before the meeting, it was also read and adopted

The committee appointed to examine and settle the treasurers account and for other purposes present the following report, namely,

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting

The committee appointed to settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes, report, that they have attended to that service and find that the accounts have been correctly kept with the prober vouchers for the same and that the balance in the hands of the Treasurer is One hundred and eighty nine and $\frac{61}{100}$ dollars. and we reccommend that the trustees of the Lynn Meeting house fund be authorized to draw and pay to the Treasurer of this meeting the balance remaining of said fund.— And we propose the name of Thomas Perry as Treasurer for the ensuing year

[illegible] which is united with and the Trustees of the Lynn Meeting house fund are directed to draw the balance of said fund remaining in Lynn Savings Bank and pay the same to our treasurer,— and Thomas Perry is accordingly appointed treasurer for the ensuing year

Harvey Chace one of the Trustees of the Othniel Tripp fond having deceased and Jonathan Chace having been named to serve in his place which being united with by the meeting, he is accordingly appointed to that service

Adjourned to the 10 hour tomorrow morning

Third day morning Friends again assembled pursuant to adjournment

[illegible] and answered thereto as at our last sitting

Essays of Epistles to our friends of Kansas and Towo Yearly Meetings have been prepared by the committee appointed to that service

1883 were introduced and read and having been deliberately considered were approved and the clerk is directed to sign and forward copies thereof to those Meetings respectively the Womens meeting joining [illegible]

An Epistle from Western Yearly Meeting having been received by the clerk of this meeting but is not present, whereupon it is refered to the Meeting for Sufferings with directions to respond thereto

The clerk is [illegible] to make all necessary extracts from the minutes of this Meeting and authorized to sign them on its behalf

Having accomplished the business which brought us together in much [illegible] and a good degree of satisfaction through the [illegible] adjourn, to meet again at the usual time next year at Westerly R I. if consistent with the Divine Will

[illegible]

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Summary of of answers to the Queries for 1883

[illegible] attended except three, those on first day by Friends generaly who are in a practice [illegible] discipline have been neglected by quite a number of our members [illegible] and with the exception of a few instances of sleeping, no unbecoming behavior noticed when assembled

Ans 2nd Love and unity are maintained and detraction guarded against as far as appears.— No differences known amongst us

Ans 3rd Friends feel a concern to bring us those under their care in plainness of speech, behavior and apparel, and to restrain them from pernicious reading and corrupt conversation.- Most Friends are examplary herein themselves, and we believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their families

Ans 4th Friends abstain from the use of spirituous liquors except for medicine, the unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort, and keep in moderation and temperance on the occasions refered to as far as appears

Ans 5th None [illegible] to require assistance, [illegible] need out

[illegible]

-eral matters refered to in this query.— Yet there are some members residing in distant States which we are unable to answer for.— One account states a few cases of the younger members attending meetings of other religious societies

Friends endeavour to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts and we think they are punctual to their promises and just in the payment of their debts and generly live within the bounds of their circumstances Ans 8th

Friends are mostly careful as to records.— No removal without certificates to those who have gone within the limits of a Friends meeting Ans 9th

Some care rests with Friends to deal with offenders as queried after and to place judgment according to discipline [illegible] Ans 10th

Copy

From New England Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments on the 11th and 12th of 6th Mo. 1883

To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends

Dear Friends

Having been favored again to assemble in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, we have been engaged towards you in absent brethren with living desires for their preservation in the unchangeable truth and for their establishment on the alone sure foundation Christ Jesus the Rock of ages: hence we feel drawn to address to you a few words of [illegible] things [illegible] to you as brethren of the same family and [illegible] in this way tends to the strength and encouragement one of another and to our advancement Zionward. We have at this time been brought renewedly to feel the weight of responsibility which rests upon us as a people to maintain [illegible] suffering and conflict in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation [illegible]

1883

our existence as a people – a day wherein the enemy of all good h[illegible]
[illegible] and in proportion as we [illegible]
[illegible] prevalent amongst us [illegible]
[illegible] on the right hand or on the left – a day
[illegible] of the faithful followers of the Lamb that it
[illegible] to believe on his name but also to
[illegible] for his sake. So do not feel, dear friends that it is needful for us
[illegible] at this time suffice it to say that in taking a view of
[illegible] of the church and of the world, we feel to exhort
all who are numbered a people under our name in this time of great commo-
-motion and falling away to retire inward and endeavor as much as in them
[illegible] and trusting in God and to cease from
[illegible] man whose breath is in his nostrils and place our
[illegible] confidently upon Him in whom is everlasting strength.
[illegible] the signs of the seer and the sighing of
[illegible] in a special manner have been introduced
[illegible] in our land who are pa-
-ssing sorrowing on their way for the desolations of Zion in a condition simi-
-lar to that of the prophet when he was compelled to eat the roll written
within and without with lamentation mourning and woe" to whom the
Truth as believed in and upheld by our worthy predecessors is dearer than
[illegible] Still those we have hoped in the fulness of [illegible]
[illegible] of having those with whom their cause was not found in this day
of treading down and perplexity. How strikingly applicable to those whose
[illegible] is the injunction of the inspired apostle. Beloved
think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you as though
some strange thing had happened unto you but rejoice inasmuch as ye are
partakers of Christs sufferings, that when his glory shall be revealed ye may
be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ
happy are ye for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you on their part
he is evil spoken of but on your part he is glorified. Wherefore let them that
suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls
unto him in well doing as unto a faithful Creator. Our meeting though
very small has not been without evidence of divine regard, and in trans-
-acting the various concerns that [illegible] before it harmony and broth-
-erly love [illegible] have prevailed. And above all we have at times been
favoured to experience the arising of encouragement to be steadfast and
[illegible] and have been brought consistently to acknowledge that the Lord

hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor his ear grown heavy that it can-

to learn of the faithfulness of some of your dear young people, who are likely to fill the places of the fathers and mothers when removed from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant. And we desire to speak in language of encouragement to these dear children whom we trust are under the Lords preserving hand.

There are two fold reasons for an early dedication of the heart to the cause of Truth and righteousness, viz, the great uncertainty of life and the value of faith-

one as to encourage any to go forth in their own strength, but only as the Lord putteth forth and goeth before to be mouth and wisdom tongue and utterance.

With the salutation of love we are your friends and brethren

Signed on behalf and by direction of our Yearly Meeting

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From New England Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Newport on

To Rowe, Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends

Dear Friends

On sitting down together in this our annual gathering as one of a city

their preservation, amed the trials and temptations besetting them on the right hand and on the left. — when the enemy comes in as a flood with the array

with the armor of Saul, but going forth in the strength of the God of Israel alone, to slay the giant and [illegible] — the preservation of Daniel in the lions den and his subsequent advancement with the entire overthrow of the [illegible] the case of poor despised, but confiding Mordecai sitting at the kings gate.

which the scriptures of truth abound, abundantly evince that the Lord can and often does save by the few instead of the many and in proportion as we

upon and trust in him alone, will he bless our endeavor; yea he can and will make a way for those where there appears to be no way, Mourners & yearnings will be understood all things in his own time be made to work together for good to those who are desiring above all things to serve & honor him in their day and generation.- Then let us endeavor through sunshine and storm, through evil report and good report to be found in our allotted stations whether it be in doing or in suffering- Then when he sees meet to release from the labors of the field he will be round about us as a shining light to conduct us safely through the valley of the shadow of death, and will present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy

We have received no Epistle from you since the one we acknowledged last by

Signed on behalf and by direction of our Yearly Meeting.

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1884 At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Westerly, Rhode Island commencing with Public Meeting for worship on first day the 5th & 6th mo. 1884. and on second day morning the 6th with meeting for discipline

Records have been received from Rhode Island and Smithfield Quarterly Meetings by which it appears the following named friends are appointed representatives to attend this meeting viz from Rhode Island Charles Perry, Elam Foster, Daniel Wilbur Jeremiah Foster, Samuel Sheffield and Jesse Foster.- From Smithfield Jesse Tucker, Francis Taber and Isaac & Wilbur, whose names being called five were present and answered there to this day two- for the absence of one satisfactory reason was given

Duly acceptable Epistles from the Meeting for Sufferings of Westerly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Ireland were received and read to our satisfaction and encouragement-

Charles Perry, John W Foster, Francis Taber, George Foster, Jeremiah Foster and Isaac & Wilbur are appointed a committee to unite with a committee appointed by the Womens meeting to prepare an essay or reply thereto- and present them to a future sitting

Jeremiah Foster, Francis Taber and William H Wood are appointed a committee to prepare a minute in answer to the Queries and produce them to our next sitting

to examine and settle the treasurers account— propose a sum to be raised for the use of this meeting for the ensuing year (if any be necessary) and propose a friend to serve this meeting as Treasurer for the year ensuing and report at a future [illegible]

The representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting [illegible] and another friend to serve the meeting as clerk and another for assistant clerk and report the same at the opening of the meeting this afternoon

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon

Afternoon met pursuant to adjournment

The names of the representatives having been called they were [illegible] and their service in the meeting filling

Charles Perry on behalf of the representatives, reports that they had conferred together and were united in proposing the name of Isaac P. Wilbur for clerk and of Thomas Perry for assistant clerk [illegible] Thomas Perry declined on account of indisposition, therefore William F. Wood was named and united with to serve in his place and they the said Isaac P. Wilbur and William F. Wood are accordingly [illegible]

The records of the meeting for Sufferings having been laid before this meeting were read and the proceedings of the meeting the past year approved and the friends who were compose that meeting viz. Charles Perry, Samuel Shoffield, Ethan Foster Jesse Tucker, Thomas Perry, Isaac P. Wilbur, John W. Foster, Francis Wilbur, Jeremiah Foster, George Foster, William F. Wood, and Jonathan Peace, are reappointed to that service for the ensuing year

The Queries were read at this time together with the answers which were [illegible] and a summary of the answers have been laid before the meeting it was also read and adopted

[illegible] and the other business [illegible] ensuing before this meeting

The Yearly Meeting now adjourned

The committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account and for this purpose report that they

1884

have attended to that service and find the account have been correctly kept, and the books carefully preserved. The amount now in the hands of the Treasurer is One hundred fifty four 24/100 dollars — In the opinion of the committee it will be unnecessary [illegible] Thomas Perry for Treasurer — On behalf of the Committee [illegible]

Which being considered was approved and Thomas Perry accordingly appointed Treasurer for the year ensuing.

Jeremiah Foster on behalf of the trustees of the Lynn Meeting [illegible] from the Lynn Savings Bank and paid the same to our Treasurer as directed by this meeting last year, and requests to be discharged. They are accordingly relieved from further care in the case [illegible]

Third day afternoon the 17th of the month Friends again assembled pursuant to adjournment

The representatives names being called they were present and answered thereto as at our last sitting

Essays of Epistles to our friends of Western, Kansas and Iowa Quarterly Meetings have been prepared by the committee appointed to that service were introduced and read, and having been deliberately considered, were approved, and the clerk is directed to sign and forward copies thereof to those meetings respectively, the womens meeting joining herein

The Clerk is directed to make all necessary extracts from the minutes of this meeting and authorized to sign them on its behalf

[illegible] the minutes of our Yearly Meeting, and having accomplished the business which brought us together to a good degree of satisfaction we now conclude purposing to meet again at this place at the usual time next year if consistent with the Divine will

Rec'd Philom Gidley

1887

Summary of answers to the Queries for 1887

Ans 1st All our meetings for religious worship and discipline have been held [illegible] which omissions were owing to the small number and poor health of Friends and the inclemency of the weather. Those on first day appear to have been [illegible] are neglected by a number of our members, The hour is nearly observed a few instances of sleeping noticed. no other unbecoming behavior when assembled

Ans 2nd [illegible]

Ans 3rd We think that love, and exercise some care in bringing up their children in plainness and restrain them from Superfluous reading and corrupt conversation, Some Friends are exemplary herein themselves, and we think the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their families

Ans 4th Friends avoid the use of spirituous liquors except for medicines. The unnecessary frequenting of taverns and places of public resort and observe moderation and temperance on the occasions alluded to

Ans 5th None among us appear to require assistance, no children placed from among Friends

Ans 6th There has been some want of care in attending to the cases of [illegible] contrary to our discipline

Ans 7th We believe most friends are clear in the several parts of this query. [illegible] societies. this by their presence give countenance to hireling ministry

Ans 8th Friends inspect their affairs and settle their accounts, and we think are punctual to their promises, just in the payment of their debts. and endeavor to live within the bounds of their circumstances

Ans 9th Friends are mostly careful as to records. No removals within the limits of a Friends meeting without certificates

Ans 10th Some care rests with Friends to deal with offenders in the spirit of meekness and wisdom, yet there has been a delay in dealing with a few who have married contrary to discipline

1884 Copy

From the Select Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Baltimore by adjournments from the 17th of the 5th month to the 27th of the same inclusive 1884

To Western Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends

Dear Friends

We are renewedly impressed as we again assemble in the exhibition of a yearly loving that the fellowship and sympathy of our brethren and sisters of the same household of faith tends to strengthen and encourage one another in the maintenance of our precious doctrines and testimonies. And persuaded we are that it is not the will of the Lord that these should be overthrown — and this people once highly favoured of God should cease to exist — and in their stead a formal and ceremonious religion be substituted. It was none other than the mighty God of Jacob who gave [illegible] and his ordained these principles and testimonies to maintain — And their Lord and Saviour on whose spirit they relied promised His help in the day of battle, and suffered not their enemies to prevail against them — And is not the same God & the same Saviour still with His dependent ones? And will He not raise up others who are ready with forms and ceremonies who shall be willing to suffer for the truth and give them power to become the sons of God? Even to them who believe on His name — Ah! He continues to be unto them as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, and will not suffer the enemy to prevail against them. — Your acceptable Epistle prepared by the meeting for sufferings, has been received and read to our comfort and encouragement — And though we feel weak and poor, we think best briefly to acknowledge its reception, and to forward its [illegible] we will feel with

When Balak sent Balaam to curse Israel the Lord suffered it not but caused him to say. how shall I curse whom the Lord hath not cursed. or how shall I defy whom the Lord hath not defied — And he lifted up his eyes and saw Israel abiding in his tents, and the spirit of God came upon him. Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob neither is there any [illegible] against Israel — How goodly are thy tents O Jacob, and thy tabernacles O Israel as the valleys are they watered by the Lord as gardens by the river side as trees of lign-aloes which the Lord hath planted and as cedar trees beside the waters

We remain in the bonds of Christian love & fellowship

Signed on behalf and by direction of our Yearly Meeting

From the England yearly Meeting of Friends held in Derby 1884
to Indiana Yearly Meeting commencing from the 17th of Tenth Month
of the same inclusive 1884

To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends

Dear Friends

We are permitted once more to assemble for our annual gathering, and endeavour to transact the weighty affairs of the Church

While our small number is depressing to our minds - we are renewedly persuaded that our excellent system of Church government which was instituted by George Fox and his colaborers under the direction of Divine wisdom should be maintained — And we believe notwithstanding the great falling away now taking place in our beloved society, the time will come when our doctrines, testimonies and discipline will be revived and appreciated more fully than they now are — And shall we who feel engaged for the [illegible] turn away from the truth? — Shall we not rather double our diligence and put shoulder to shoulder in building up the walls of our Zion which are broken down? — When we remember the labors and sufferings of our early Friends in awakening a degenerate christian Church and causing the establishment of a purer and better condition, we cannot believe that it is the will of the Lord that this great work should be overthrown —

And we are renewedly persuaded that He who clearly led our forefathers in the truth out of the vain fashions and customs of a sinful world, cannot lead those of another age back into the same bondage — And at this time we are concerned that we with you may be preserved from undue exc[illegible] in the political strife and contention now agitating the country

If we draw near to God and seek for help, wisdom and discretion it will be given us, and our peace will flow like rivers of water

Your acceptable Epistle has been received and read to our comfort and encouragement

Finally brethren and sisters Farewell and may the God of love and peace be with you

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Meeting.

1884

From New England Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Westerly Rhode Island by adjournments from the 27th of the 5th month to the 17th of the 6th month inclusive 1884

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends

Dear Friends

Your Epistle of last year has been received and we are [illegible] your spiritual and fellowship with us, in our Lord Jesus Christ and work and labor, and we can [illegible] your desire that we all may be found "filled with the work and rest" spirit which is in the sight of God of great price. We do not at this time feel to [illegible] but we desire that all who believe in, and endeavour to uphold the principles and testimonies of the ever blessed and unchangeable truth, as nobly lived up to by our worthy [illegible] may continue [illegible] that we may [illegible] understanding, should see eye to eye — Not only were they desirous to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling before Him, but they were willing [illegible] by sea and land to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to declare the gospel thereof to be the power of God unto salvation, to all those who believe in, and conform to its power and life —

We seem to be at this time too much isolated one from another as [illegible] is sustained by our dear young people on account of the want of [illegible] which were ready to die — We deplore the sad effects of a lifeless ministry, and have no unity with those who for want of tarrying at Jerusalem until they become endued with power from on High — [illegible] the beautiful fabric of Christian doctrine as did our living Ministers in former times; are endeavouring to pull it down and proclaim an easier way to the Kingdom of everlasting rest and peace — Yet we [illegible] and prayer [illegible] the Lord would qualify and send forth more labourers into His harvest

We feel to bid you an affectionate farewell in gospel love

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting

A [illegible] Meeting of [illegible] Spring River Quarterly Conference held at Pleasant Grove Church on the 1st day of November 1885 [illegible]

Members present

[illegible]

with the exception of two, for the absence of whom a satisfactory reason was assigned.

We have at this Meeting the accustomed with a certificate from Spring River Monthly Meeting of Friends, held 5th Mo. 9, 1885, endorsed by Spring River Quarterly Meeting, with the limits of the [illegible] Meeting, setting forth that he is acknowledged [illegible]

[illegible]

In Consideration of our friend Edward [illegible] Committee to [illegible] and the Clerk is directed to forward to them a copy of the [illegible]

[illegible] the Society was entered
upon the reading of the Report and Statement thereto
[illegible] prepared by the Committee appointed for
that purpose was also read and duly signed and
[illegible]
They were then severally, and respectively thereupon
[illegible] our friends were encouraged to believe, as a closer attention
[illegible] was given to the Heavenly Spirit of Truth in their
[illegible] that we would be strengthened, as were our forefathers
[illegible] to maintain these Testimonies, and in all
[illegible] be understood many are now aware of, when the
Lord will arise and from among the dead, put those
who will, through the adversaries of Italy, help to
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, which have been
burned with fire.

[illegible] the Society have learned the satisfying
[illegible] Report - The Committee [illegible]
[illegible] and Settle the Treasurer's accounts and
[illegible] the disbursements and with the Receipts
[illegible] Cash in hand at the last Report and Vouchers
[illegible] Balance on hand of Five Hundred
and [illegible] Dollars and Eighty Cents, to
$25,80 [illegible] over and above

[illegible] this

The Committee are instructed to invite [illegible]
[illegible] for the next Yearly Meeting

Chairman of the Committee
Edmund Peckover

Ely 1st mo. 15 1885

[illegible] the Committee appointed
on this Item is accordingly appointed Treasurer
of the Collection within the Limits of the

Then Adjourned to the 2nd hour tomorrow
afternoon.

Third day afternoon the 16th
Minutes read & Adjournment to Adjournment.

The Names of the Representatives, the
were present each day, for the Attendance of the
whom a Certificate from home addressed.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings having
been read before the Meeting of this Meeting were read
and the Proceedings of that Meeting during the Year
Considered, and a Report [illegible]
[illegible] with the exception of one clear Friend Ethan Foster
declined, and the addition of Jonathan Gray
it was united with, and they are accordingly
appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings
for the ensuing year.

The Yearly Meeting's Information this Year
united with the Proceedings of the Meeting for
Sufferings.

The Committee appointed on Second
day Morning, to prepare Essays of Epistles if
any Friends per or if to Kansas, Iowa and
Western Yearly Meetings, have presented such
[illegible], and [illegible] the
were united with by the Meeting, and the
Clerk is directed to forward Copies on parchment
and forward to their Meetings respectively

The Clerk is directed to make all necessary changes in the Journal of the Proceedings of this Meeting, and to report the same on its adjournment.

Resolved, That the Meeting be adjourned, this moment, without day, as we feel ourselves to be, and discouraging as are the circumstances under which we are placed; the Compassion of Israel's God has been renewed & extended towards us. Ancient Goodness has spread over us during our deliberations, tender Feelings of gratitude & love favor the Conclusion, & encourage a hope that a future day, in Consistent with the Divine will.

Resolved, That the Scattered Members of this Meeting be directed to visit the Scattered Branches of the Church, with different Companions; that they endeavor to promote Love & Unity, & strengthen the Churches at this time.

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Resolved, That our next Meeting for Religious Worship & Discipline be held at [illegible] on the [illegible] day of [illegible] next, at the usual hour of [illegible] in the forenoon; & that the Members of this Meeting, & others who may be disposed to attend, be informed of the same.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] meeting [illegible]

[illegible] The remarkable [illegible] Spirit [illegible] Spirit [illegible] Spirit

and Wilkins & Wood, from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting Isaac P. Wilbur and Francis Taber, whose names having been called they were all present and answered thereto except one; for the absence of whom a satisfactory reason was given.

We have at this time the acceptable company of our dear friend Edward ~~Edward~~ N. Dalton with a certificate from Spring River Monthly Meeting of Friends, endorsed by Spring River Quarterly Meeting within the limits of which he resides and Iowa Yearly Meeting, liberating him to visit in the love of the Gospel the Meetings of Friends in America as far as Baltimore in the way; and to attend to such other religious service as Truth calls for while engaged therein.

We encourage and gospel labors with hope of good have been to our encouragement and satisfaction to us, and the Clerk is directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute.

We have also the acceptable company of our dear friend John Dodson with a certificate from a Committee of Spring River Quarterly Meeting of Ministers informing that he is a member with whom they have unity and liberating him to accompany Edward N. Dalton in his proposed religious services. Which being duly considered and satisfactory have been accepted by us, and the Clerk directed to furnish him with a copy of this minute.

We have received at this time acceptable visits from Western and Iowa Yearly Meetings, and we are informed that Canada Yearly also sent an epistle to us, but it has not been received. And we appoint our friends Jesse Foster, Charles Carey, Jesse Hicks, Isaac Wilbur, John Barker, Cary Foster

William E. Ford and Arthur Perry, to unite
with a Committee of the General Meeting,
to prepare a way & Means therefor Essays of Epistles
to Kansas, Western and Iowa Yearly Meetings

We have also received at this time the
following minute from Ohio Yearly Meeting viz

To the Yearly Meeting for New England.
At a [illegible] Meeting of Ministers,
Stillwater 6th Mo. 3rd 1885.

The Committee continued last year on the
subject of the scattered remnants of Friends
in different parts of the land, made the following
Report, which being deliberately considered
[illegible]

The Yearly Meeting receive, agree with Yearly
Meetings named in the report as ordinate
Yearly Meetings of the Society of Friends
[illegible] and privileges that membership in our
Society confers. Report of Committee
"Appointed at the Committee on Scattered
remnants in different parts of the land
9th. Mo. 26. 1885 The Committee after having
carried in mind the important Concern, entrusted
to their Care and giving time for a free inter-
change of sentiment & feeling, have come to
the following conclusion the under-recorded minutes
of Yearly Meetings of New England held
at Portland Me. of which, Minutes
and Epistles to Yearly Meetings are Clerks are
ordinated and of the Society of Friends.

On behalf of the Committee
John W. Smith
Mary B. Test

Extracted from the minutes of the Yearly Meeting
Wilson Hall } Clerks
Iowa Hall }

Which is a strength and comfort to us, and the encouragement [greater] as it is a token and evidence of the course steered by our dear Lord and Master who hath promised to be with us even unto the end of the world. A Committee appointed to draft Essays of Epistles are requested to prepare it immediately & the same and forward it to this Yearly Meeting.

Daniel J. Willcox and William J. Wood are appointed to prepare a Summary of Documents for this Meeting, and present at their sitting this afternoon.

Arthur Lamy, George L. Carter and Samuel H. Wilcox are appointed to Examine and Settle the accounts of the Treasurer [the Trustees] and consider whether it is necessary to raise funds for the use of this Meeting this year, to prepare a Minute for Treasurer and Clerk at the close of this sitting.

The Representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting, and prepare a Minute for Clerk and Assistant Clerk, and present their Report at the close of this sitting this afternoon.

[illegible] to the Representatives [illegible]

Afternoon near the hour adjourned to Friends again assembled.

The names of the Representatives having been called the were present as at our last sitting.

William J. Wood on behalf of the Representatives, reported that they had conferred together and were united in proposing [illegible] for Clerk and Assistant Clerk to

[illegible] considered, they were united with, and they are [illegible] for the good finding

The Committee appointed [illegible] day Morning, to unite with a committee [illegible] as way opened therefor, have introduced such to Canada, Western, Iowa and Ohio [illegible] Meetings, which after a time of deliberation was adopted by the Meeting, and the Clerk is directed [illegible] and forward them to their Meetings respectively

The State of Society was entered into, by the reading of the queries and answers thereto from our Quarterly Meetings, and [illegible] the Committee [illegible] and [illegible] it was approved and directed to be recorded

During the time of sitting of our Meeting we were favored in the precious love of our Heavenly Father, and it was felt and expressed that we might more consistently maintain all our testimonies as a means of drawing down the divine regard upon us.

The records of the Meeting for Sufferings, having been laid before this Meeting at this time, were read and approved and in view of the small number of Members, and on account of unfavorable weather, our dear friends from Kansas were present, that it is customary in this Yearly Meeting to appoint both men and women Friends to compose their Meetings for Sufferings; it is commended to the [illegible] Committee of [illegible] Friends [illegible]

the names of Suitable Friends, of both men and women, to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings the ensuing year. Viz Thomas Perry, John D. Wilbur Geo. B. Foster, P. Wilbur and Arthur Perry.

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers accounts, and for other purposes, have presented the following, viz

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

"The Committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes have attended to that service. They find the account correctly kept and the proper vouchers filed. The balance on hand is Eight hundred and ninety nine and sixty seven cents ($899.67/100) This amount includes the interest which has been accumulating for several years on the note of the Treasurer of the late Rhode Island Monthly given to the Trustees of the Olmsted Legacy Fund.

The Committee are united in the opinion that Thomas Perry for Treasurer of the Meeting for the ensuing year

Geo. B. Foster
For the Committee

Which report is satisfactory to the Meeting, and Thomas Perry is appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the year ensuing.

Then adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon.

Third Day afternoon the 15th Inst- pursuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives having been called, they were present as at our last sitting.

The Committee appointed to bring in the names of Suitable Friends to compose a Meeting for Sufferings have agreed the following. Viz

The Committee of men and women Friends appointed to nominate the Names of

suitable persons to constitute a meeting for
Sufferings & present the following viz.

Charles Penry
Jesse Dicke.
Thomas Penry
Isaac P. Willets
John M. Foster
Francis Fisher
George Foster
William Ward
Jonathan Chace
John Barclay Foster
Earle Foster

Anna A. Foster
Eliza F. Browning
Ann Lewis
Elizabeth V. Edol
Abby A Pennington
Mary K. Ward
Mary Smith
Louisa S. Nicholson
Lydia Barnard
Anne Chace
Mary Anne Foster

On behalf of the Committee
Isaac P. Willets
Jesse K. Ward.

After a time of deliberation the Meeting have
accepted the report, and the Friends therein
are appointed to constitute a meeting for
Sufferings for the year ensuing.

The Committee appointed at our sitting
second day morning to unite with a committee
of the Women's Meeting to inspect Entrance
Exhibits, as may be deemed necessary, to see
that to Contain, Western Iowa & Ohio Yearly
Meetings, which after a time of deliberation,
were adopted by the Meeting, and the Clerk is
directed to transcribe and forward them, to
those Meetings, respectively.

The Clerk is directed to make all necessary
Extracts from the minutes of this Meeting
and sign them on its behalf.

And now in the conclusion of this Meeting
we feelingly acknowledge, that from the windings of
our first Sitting we were much cast down

under the overshadowing of Divine Love we have been made to realize more clearly the immediate presence & power of our risen Lord & make us, I trust, more in earnest at times the Ancient cry of Hannah, Good need to spend over us. And we are ready to believe in our hearts that God hath not forgotten to be gracious, but is mindful of us in our low estate, under the pleading voice of the Lord, bringing it well with him at the final reckoning, in full conformity with the Divine will.

Summary of Answers to the Queries for 1886

Ans First. All our meetings for religious worship & discipline have been held & are in one locality where but few Friends reside. Meetings have not been regularly held, owing to the infirmities of some and others being from home much of the time. Mid-week meeting and those for discipline are not attended by some Friends. The former is much neglected. During the remaining portion of the year we assemble except a few instances of sickness.

Ans. Second. Love and unity appear to be maintained and detraction guarded against. Those disposed to come to our meetings

Ans 3d. We think Friends have a desire and endeavor some care to bring up their children in the way they should go, and encourage them to attend meetings, reading and devotional communication. Friends are wealthy & pleasant therein themselves, and we think the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in their families.

Ans. 4th. Friends abstain from the use of spirituous liquors &c. except for medicine, the unnecessary frequenting of places of public resort, and to keep in moderation and temperance as far as appears on all occasions

Ans. 5th The circumstances of this Yearly Meeting afford but little additional matter for remark, or children absent from among Friends.

Ans. 6th Parents and heads of families with the young unmarried have some care that proceedings with respect to marriage be conformable to our discipline. Yet their efforts in this respect have not always been availing

Ans. 7th As to their duty to Friends in the several particular Meetings, it does not appear, that there have been any cases of any Friends [illegible] with persons of other religious societies.

Ans. 8th Friends endeavor to inspect their accounts, and if the their circumstances, [illegible] to their knowledge and [illegible] of their debts, and [illegible] within the bounds of their circumstances

[illegible] the minutes of [illegible] births, marriages and deaths recorded. No removal within the limits of [illegible] certificates

Ans. 10th. Some care is taken to deal with offenders in the spirit of meekness and wisdom, yet a slackness has prevailed of late and some delay noticable in relation to dealing with who have not [illegible] with the discipline

To Dover Yearly Meeting of Friends — Dear Friends

In the drawings of that love which binds together brethren & sisters of the same household of faith we salute you, rejoicing that you have been found worthy to suffer for the name and cause of our blessed Lord & Master. For we are persuaded that in the trials and overturnings which have troubled Israel in this our day, you have borne your part into the conflict, which have been our common lot, choosing rather to endure persecution and distress than part with those principles which have distinguished true Friends, and true primitive Christians in every age.

In the early period, [illegible] have felt constrained to stand for the old truths to be at variance with members of the same body, since which we have either been consciously from many such, we have not felt to abate the fervour of our zeal, for we were desirous and prayed to God for Israel's final that they might be saved," notwithstanding in the midst of God's chastisements and going down to establish their own righteousness have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

It has been our lot in this part of the land to suffer various and peculiar trials. Many years ago faithful watchmen on the walls of our Zion discovered the enemy coming in like a flood, and though the result unfolded from time to time has fully justified the alarm of the sentinels, the opposition arising to the same have been our portion. And as we have dwelt in the wilderness, in the long years that are past we have felt, we have endeavored to look

over Jerusalem, that the Stillness of death prevailed and we have been almost to believe that the Lord's Spirit had indeed been clean, and his Glory departed from us. The people continued a long time in a waiting & retaining posture, but at last appearances began to wear away, and they have not all gone, and that there are yet a remnant in the land who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

Though we have been cast off from the Synagogues of Satan & are mainly exercised and tossed as a driving tempest, and ordered to wander in the wilderness for forty years away from the habitations of our brethren until some time almost despaired and been ready to perish; yet we have felt that there was a further course or Exercise for us, and we believe we have at times at our gatherings been able to discern in the Stillness the Secret Presence of the Master, and have been permitted to partake a little of the Holy Communion, even that bread which cometh down from God out of Heaven.

We have received your letter of 10th month last and rejoiced to feel that you are endeavouring to walk in that straight & narrow Path, which though at times hard to the flesh is yet the only one whereby we may find that true Peace and Spiritual Comfort which is necessary to nourish the immortal soul. Our Earnest desire for you as for ourselves are that we may all be found giving our individual attention to the Openings of divine light in our hearts. and if we are fully persuaded that as we are enabled to attend to this that the blessing of the most High will rest upon the Church and such

of the living manner of Christ that we have
left Jerusalem in our strivings towards the mark
of our high calling in the earnest desire and
prayer of our hearts.

Signed by direction and
on behalf of the Meeting
Edith Pratt
Elizabeth A Edgar } Clerks

To Western Yearly Meeting of Friends

From New England Eighth Month Meeting of
Friends held at [illegible]

Dear Friends

We are comforted in the assurance of a Yearly Meeting, and
though under a sense of weakness, yet with
deep desires, and a travail of soul for your
welfare, and dedication one to another, we feel a
renewed [illegible] in the confidence
that you are building on the foundation of
the Prophets and Apostles, Jesus Christ himself
being the chief corner stone. This
feeling has been increased by the reading of
your brotherly salutation of the 6th inst.

We are renewedly reminded that the inter-
changing of visiting and of fellowship one with
another tends to strengthen the hands of those who
feel the precepts of Christ dear, as well as
to encourage one another to be faithful in
their stripe unto the work.

[illegible] the care of our
religious affairs [illegible] of scattered
[illegible] the
care [illegible] to the work. [illegible]
this, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Earnest, zealous laborers of the Lord's own
choosing amongst us; and when I write these
little lines, dear friends, think of me in your
prayers and pray for continuance in all
[illegible] religion, which is the only
true one under God; and strive to introduce into
the home. This, I doubt not would cause us to be
more faithful as individuals in bearing our
daily cross, being thus enabled to become clean
handed warriors to fight the Lord's battles.

We feel very congratulate you, in having
received your separation from the darkness
and unbelieving elements - receiving additions to
your numbers. And we hope no doubt
that others will take the same course in
the receiving of the gospel from time to time as
to relieve from the responsibility of leaving dis-
united our fine [illegible] in the Book we are speaking
to unite us.

It is [illegible] that there are in different parts of
the world a people, and such who are united
on the Book, Christ, and, the only true formu-
lation of all your actions, and, though we still
sits as a refiner and purifier, to take away
the dross [illegible] that we undertake
day of His coming that from the altar of our
purified hearts we may go forth into the Lord
in righteousness [illegible].

We have the acceptable company of our dear friends from [illegible] and only wish we and
our hearts were more united and to their prayers
and joyful labors. We have read of Enoch
the Master writes [illegible]

[illegible] Jesus Christ for our Friends the Society of Friends
[illegible] and we feel [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[

from Sea to Sea and from the river to the Ends of the Earth, and which is extended to all the faithful.

We feel to rejoice that we have been enabled to acknowledge from small & stripped lands as these ful representatives of those early days of the Morning with a letter a true Testimony of Gentile fornication and desolation have raised up & to set forth and in their pure and consecrating to their native Land to the Saints in the Earth. It is an Encouragement unity of Spirit; and we feel at this time the cementing influence of heaven how many bind us as Members of one body, of which Christ is the head. We realize that these principles of Truth are precious to the faithful scattered from and laid waste through the length and breadth of this land, a mission that wherein the arising for such first are joined [illegible] that it is our privilege to come forth in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and obedience [illegible] which alone the Ancient doctrines and Testimonies of the ever blessed and [illegible] Book can be received [illegible] Blessings.

We have at times been [illegible] of the people to build on the immutable [illegible] Ages, both those among those who have strayed away from it and from the fulness and [illegible] Men and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Colon

To the Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends

Dear Friends

We regret that your epistle of last year is not at hand, but we have been informed by our dear friends who are in attendance from your yearly meeting and from other places, that one was addressed to us; we feel more than willing to assure you, that we esteem you as brethren and sisters beloved of the same house hold of faith. We trust that we are mindful [illegible] of the benefit of speaking often, one to another, while the words are attended with life, and the reading and speaking [illegible] to the edifying [illegible] Lord Jesus Christ.

The apostle says "the kingdom of God is not in word but in power." [illegible] that sometimes our hands hang down, & our knees are bowed like willows; [illegible] tell you that the friends who are with us from other yearly meetings, have not only been acceptable, but their presence [illegible] the way, enabling us to thank God and take courage. O [illegible] to be [illegible]

declaration of the Lord's people. We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren. In view of the efforts being made in different parts of the Lord's heritage, to substitute a more [illegible] for that received and promulgated by Geo. Fox, and his colaborers, we feel with you encouraged in our endeavors to [illegible] that we are ready to die, for the defense of the gospel as [illegible] We desire to present his faith in such a manner as to adhere, and turn aside from the great blessed and unchangeable truth as it is in Jesus.

May both young and old, may the Lord sustain us in this the day when there shall be a flocking to his Church [illegible] Then Jacob shall come forth, and Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit. Behold, I will be with you, and will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown. The ruin shall be built upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof. How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! As valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as trees of lign aloes which the Lord hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters. He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee. Numbers 24th chapter. Verily no enchantment shall prevail against us if we abide in our tents; for it is [illegible] that shall be done for Jacob, and for Israel, what God hath wrought. Numbers 23rd chapter. With the salutations of love we remain

Yours in the
[illegible] of the Gospel of

New England Yearly Meeting of Friends held
at Westerly, R.I. commenced
on the 15th of 6th Month, inclusive 1887.

All our Yearly Meetings
England, held at Westerly, R.I. commencing
with a Public Meeting for Worship, on First day
the 12th of 6th month 1887, and on Second
day morning, the 13th of the same
for discipline.

Accounts have been received from R.I. and
Fairhaven Quarterly Meetings, by which we
are informed that the [illegible]
previously appointed
to this Meeting, viz.
Chas. W. Lowry, George Taber,
John B. Taber, and William F. Wood.
Edmund Chadwick, Jesse Tucker, and
Lewis A. Wilbur, whose names having
been called, they
severally answered thereto.

We have received from Kansas,
and Iowa, Epistles, at this time, from
their Yearly Meetings, [illegible]
Friends, and Correspondence with other
Societies, for which, we feel
thankful, and addressing to us, such as we feel
to think God and take fresh courage.

[illegible] we acknowledge, our
[illegible] Lewis A. Wilbur,
[illegible] Joseph S. Gidley
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

received no time for their last [illegible]
Yearly Meeting, and it is concluded [illegible]
not to write to them this Year, though [illegible]
[illegible]

Jesse Hicks, William J. Ward, & Geo. Foster, are appointed to prepare a summary of the answers to the queries & produce at our sitting this afternoon.

John Barclay Foster, and Jos. Gillet are appointed to examine and settle the accounts of the treasury, & consider [illegible] raising funds [illegible] & report [illegible].

[illegible] is requested to [illegible] to prepare an Epistle of [illegible] to the close of this [illegible] & to write to our friends to [illegible] meeting, to [illegible] clerk, and another as assistant clerk, and [illegible] of the sitting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met pursuant to adjournment.

The names of the representatives were called and they were all present.

Quarterly Meeting's representatives, reported, that they were united in proposing John W. Foster for clerk and John Barclay Foster assistant clerk of this meeting and their names being separately considered were united with and they are appointed to those stations respectively for the ensuing year.

The state of Society was taken up & the reading the queries & answers therefrom our Quarterly Meeting, and a summary, [illegible] was [illegible] for final perusal, [illegible] and directed to be recorded.

During the consideration of the [illegible] light for these answers Friends were [illegible] under a [illegible] that greater Faithfulness might be found among us in all respects [illegible] our Meetings both for worship and discipline [illegible] to the glory of our dear Lord.

[illegible] Meeting at this time they were read & [illegible] and [illegible] Geo. Foster and Wm. T. Wood, a committee to unite with a committee of the women's Meeting to propose the names of Friends to constitute a Meeting for sufferings for the ensuing year. Women

[illegible] meeting
in approving of acts of the Meeting
[illegible] the past year, and that
[illegible]
the committee of this meeting in pro-
posing a name for the meeting

The committee [illegible] to
[illegible] have reconsidered for
other purposes, have produced the [illegible]
records viz: which is satisfactory to the
meeting, and Thomas Perry is accordingly
[illegible] meeting for the
[illegible] year.

Adjourned to meet at
[illegible] morrow afternoon.

[illegible] day afternoon the 14th [illegible]

The names of the representatives having been
called there were all present.

The committee appointed
[illegible] names of suitable Friends to
[illegible] meeting for Sufferings have
named the following viz: which is satisfactory
to the meeting of this [illegible]
[illegible] meeting for [illegible]

Records of Committee Nominations For Meeting of Sufferings.

Charles Perry.
Lesser Tucker.
Isaac P. Wilbur
[illegible]
Thomas Perry.
[illegible]

Wm. J. Wood.
John B. Foster.
Emma A. Foster.
Ann Perry.
Elizabeth H. Eddy.
Mary Gardner.

Geo. Foster.
for the
Committee.

[illegible] Reduced them, which after a time of
[illegible] deliberation thereon are approved.
and the clerk is directed to transcribe
[illegible] those meetings respectively, Giving the [illegible]
of the Women's Meeting herein.

The clerk is directed to make all
necessary extracts from the minutes of
this meeting and sign them on its
behalf.

The business of which has come before
us has been accomplished in much
brotherly love & unity. Friends have felt
freedom and duty one for another. And
as we separate and go to our several
homes our hearts are filled with thank-
[illegible] Father
[illegible] Christ
descended to be in our midst and comfort
[illegible]
[illegible]
meet again at this place next
[illegible]

John W. Foster Clerk

Art. 15th All our Meetings for religious
Purposes, except Discipline shall be regularly held
each Week, except such Meetings, which are not
herein held. It will become every
Member of the Society, the duties of
Members taking their Seats in
the Meeting House. Meetings in the middle
of the week and those for Discipline shall
not be so fully attended by private
Members, as those of First-
Days, for which all observers of Friends
other are becoming Behavior when assembled.

Art. 16th. Every Quarterly Meeting shall
[illegible]

Art. 17th. Friends are desired and

who have required assistance for children
placed out.

[illegible] 6th. [illegible]
fail in some degree to exercise the care
with the youth in respect to marriage - as
noticed before, and the young & unmarried
are also deficient in this respect.

5th mo. 7th. Wee Friends maintain our
testimonies on account of the several
matters referred to in this query, yet a
few of our Members have attended when
a travelling ministers is employed.

7th mo. 5th. We think Friends are called
to inspect their [illegible]
their promises, and fulfil in the payment
of their debts, and [illegible] to the [illegible]

[illegible]
one accused without certificate, which is
under notice.

7th mo. 10th. Some care appears to be taken
to deal with offenders in the Spirit of
Truth little [illegible] herein, and that no
[illegible] been passed since last account.

Cokes. —

From Dan'l England (Jemb Walton & Friends

12th of 6th M. (a) to the 11th of the same inclusive

1889.

Dear Friends — When the Epistle from your

meeting was read in our annual meeting we

of persons, and we feel to exclaim "Thanks be

unto God for his unspeakable gift."

together this year in much poverty and weakness

yet we trust we were not unmindful of

our guidance and preservation and if they are

in the spirit in our daily lives, we shall be

Friends from the

Yearly Meeting

the Lord was

we feel to

"Behold, I have graven thee

upon the palms of my hands,"

ciety— we would exclaim, "I counsel thee
to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that
thou mayest be rich; and white
raiment, that thou mayest be clothed," and that
the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;
and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve,
that thou mayest see."

love, & rebuke and chasten; be zealous
and repent. [illegible]
and needy, unworthy, miserable,
[illegible]
[illegible]

the more continuance of your [illegible]
his spiritual presence was felt, and in a
special manner was this the case in
the meetings for discipline in all the
settlings and love and unity, and de-
lerail.

But in our weakness we are ready sometimes to
not, the harvest truly is [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
that [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[

we required at our hands individually
and we believe it would tend to strengthen

endurеth unto the end
through the pearly
city the Ever

Yours &c.

Dear friends

with you. Let your prayers arise on our behalf to the Father of all our pure mercies

marks to the people.

Our meetings continue to be well, but a renewed interest is being awakened in some, and we

living desires have been raised in our

[illegible] Christ, and [illegible]
[illegible] Church [illegible]
[illegible] Christ [illegible]
[illegible] Christ [illegible]
[illegible] Christ

Friends. Dear Friends,

In this our annual meeting we were very much encouraged to hear your acceptable Epistle read in our meeting and it is strengthening to us to know there is a laying up righteousness in that part of the world; and that there are those in the [illegible] life [illegible] that [illegible] those who implicitly trust in Him, and [illegible] to fear those who are unto Him for help; and we friends believe it is abundantly able to

presence was felt through all the
gatherings of the meeting.

And now
dear Friends, Farewell, and in the
love of Christ which constraineth us,
be with you forever, and may all true
friends through the length and breadth
of [illegible] be more and more united
in the [illegible] of [illegible]

At our Yearly Meeting of Ministers & New England Yearly & Preparative Meetings held with Public Meetings for worship on First day the 10th. of 6th Month 1888. And on Second day morning the 11th. in a time for [illegible]

Accounts have been received from Rhode Island and Canadian Quarterly Meetings by which we are informed that the following friends have been appointed [illegible] Dr. Charles Penn, George Foster, Thomas Penn, William F. Ward, John T. Wilbur, Israel D. Test, Isaac Lake and Hannah P. Wilbur, whose Names having been called they were all present and answered there to.

We have with us at this time the acceptable company of our beloved Ancient Friend from Scituate, with a satisfactory Certificate from Providence Monthly Meeting of Friends, and sincerely do we unite in a cordial welcome, [illegible] to attend New England Yearly Meeting and the Meetings belonging to it, also to visit some Meetings belonging to Providence Yearly Meeting, and appoint, as Truth may open the way, some Meetings among ourselves in Membership with us; and to attend to other religious services that may be required in the Wisdom of the Truth. She being a Minister in unity with them. Her company and weighty religious services have been comforting & strengthening unto us, and the Clerk is directed to furnish her with a Copy of this Minute.

We have also the acceptable company of our beloved friends Abigal Sears and

Dear Friends, with Certificates from Kansas Monthly Meeting, this liberating them to accompany them. Kansas in her Proposed religious Service; they being Elders in unity with them. Their Company and Service desirable, and Comforting and Strengthening to us. and the Clerk is directed to furnish them with a Copy of this minute

We have received at this time Epistles from our dear friends of Ohio, Kansas, Iowa and Indiana Yearly Meetings, which are read to our Encouragement and Edification. And we appoint our friends Jabez Gillen, George Foster, Thomas Pierson John W Stanley, John Standley Foster, William A Ward, James Archer and Isaac Wilson to unite with a Committee of the Women's Meeting to prepare Essays of reply to these Epistles to be read at this time.

John Standley Foster William A Ward and Jabez H. Gillen are appointed a Committee to prepare a summary of answers to the queries and present at our sitting this afternoon.

We appoint James L. Wilson, Charles Perry Jr and George C Foster to examine and settle the accounts of the Treasurer Consider the propriety of raising funds for the use of the Meeting this year and name a friend for Treasurer, and report at a future sitting.

The Representatives are requested to confer together at the close of this sitting, and agree upon the name of a friend to serve the Meeting as Clerk, and nominate for appointment and report at the opening of the Sitting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon

After [illegible] to order

The names of the representatives being called they were all present and answered thereto.

[illegible] informed the meeting that they were invited in [illegible] to assist [illegible] separate Conference [illegible] appointed [illegible]

The time of sitting was spent in the reading of the queries and answers, and a [illegible] the [illegible] named for that purpose this morning, it was also read and approved, and directed to be recorded.

During the reading of the queries and answers, friends were introduced into a concern that all our members might be more zealous in attending our meetings held [illegible] of the week, as well as those of worship; and that all our testimonies might be maintained as in former years. Sacrifice may sometimes seem to cost some neglect of business, but our reward will be sure, as the regard of the Lord our God may thus be brought down upon us.

The records of the meeting for sufferings having been laid before us at this time [illegible] minds were under [illegible] be continued; it was united with, and the proposition having been laid before the Women's Meeting, was united with by [illegible]; and they are accordingly [illegible]

a meeting for Sufferings the ensuing year.

Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock 3rd day afternoon 19th.

[illegible] to Friends again assembled.

The names of the representatives [illegible] been called, all were present and answered [illegible].

The committe appointed to examine and settle the account of the treasurer and for other purposes, have produced their

viz.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

The committe appointed to examine and settle the treasurer's account and other purposes have attended to that service, find the account properly kept and [illegible] vouchers filed. The balance on hand is Eleven hundred and ninety five 21/100 dollars ($1195.21).

The Committe are united in recommending Perry for treasurer (of the Meeting) the ensuing year.

(It does not appear necessary to raise any money for the use of the Yearly Meeting this year.

On behalf of the Committe

James T. Tilbur)

which is satisfactory to the Meeting and is accordingly appointed to that station.

The Committee appointed to prepare essays of Queries to Ohio, Kansas, Vincennes, Iowa [illegible]

and copy considered, was approved, and the Clerk directed to transcribe and sign on behalf of the Meeting, and forward to the respective Meetings.

The Clerk is also directed to forward the Minutes of this Meeting and sign them on its behalf.

The business which has claimed our attention having now been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, with hearts deeply humbled, yet reverently thankful to Him who alone can help and preserve us, we conclude; desiring that as we separate and return to our respective homes and distant settlings, we may be guided at all times in the paths of righteousness and peace. Purposing to meet at this place next year, if permitted and our Heavenly Father will.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

( ).

1888

## Summary of Answers to the Queries for 1888

Ans. 1st. All our Meetings for religious worship and discipline at North Dartmouth and Westerly have been duly held and attended by most of the members of these Meetings. Midweek Meetings and those for business are neglected by some Friends. Some smaller Meetings have not been kept up at all times, owing to the absence from home of several members, and the infirmity of others.

The hour mostly observed by most Friends. No unbecoming behavior noticed when assembled except a few instances of sleeping.

Ans. 2nd. Love and unity are pretty well maintained, [illegible] differences apparent.

Ans. 3rd "Friends have a concern to bring up their children under their direction in plainness of speech, behaviour and apparel, to restrain them from unnecessary company, and from corrupt conversation; yet we think a more lively concern on the part of most parents, and to be more frequently incumbered is needful. The Yearly Meetings are frequently read in their families.

Ans. 4th "Friends abstain from the use of spirituous liquors except for medicine, the necessary frequenting of taverns and public places, and keep in moderation & temperance on all occasions.

Ans. 5th "There are no cases at present where Friends are in circumstances to need assistance. All children are given opportunities to acquire a needful education. None are placed from among Friends.

Ans. 6th "Friends maintain a testimony on account of the several matters referred to in this query, by each individual's faithfully attending meetings, observing [illegible].

Ans. 7th "Friends are careful to discharge their affairs, and settle their accounts; they are punctual to their promises, and just in the payment of their debts; and endeavor to live within the bounds of their circumstances.

[illegible] recorded in due season [illegible]
[illegible] us without certificate, except that a few have removed from us to places where no Friends' meetings are established.

10th Ons. Some care is taken to deal with offenders without partiality or unnecessary delay, and to place judgment when it all hears necessary, according to discipline, after time in one case which has not been [illegible].

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Copy

From New England Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Westerly R.I. by adjournments from the 10th of the 6th mo. to the 12th of the same inclusive 1888 — to Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends.

[illegible] through the condescending [illegible] for the [illegible] important business which may come before us, you have been freshly and livingly brought to our remembrance, by the reading of your dear and instructive, affectionate and encouraging Epistle of 9th mo. last.

We feel to say in truth that we are [illegible] and [illegible] regret [illegible]. Our number in attendance is small, though a little larger than for some years past; not

young hearts taking more interest in the

Our dear friends from your Journal

have left us. While we are often mind

ful that all our Fresh Springs are owing from the

Great Fountain of Life, your remembrance of

us is very precious, and we feel to bow in humb

thankfulness before the Lord, and gather of our love

to our dear absent brethern.

We have also Epistles from all the Yearly Meetings

at which we were honored to visit and

and encouragements.

We have been thus introduced into fellowship with them and as you truly say, we are "brought to feel with and for each other, so that when one of the members of the body

is hurt, others suffer with it;" and we

Your remarks respecting our not giving way to discouragement in consequence

of what may be needed. We no doubt

appreciate the power of a worldly influence

when a few friends are scattered among

a multitude of others. Those thus

situated must often sit alone and keep

silence; and to the young and inexperienced

the danger of giving up to discouragement

and thus becoming amalgamated with the

world if formal profession is increased.

The more our young people mingle

with solid and experienced friends the greater

the help and encouragement to them.

We are not heading for a new opening

unfaithfulness, and we are persuaded that those who look to the Lord alone with a single eye to Him will be favored in the Truth. His great name and His glorious cause of Truth and righteousness will be their own souls refreshed, and their peace flow as a river. You can rejoice with us with what delight and joy all our members united in the [illegible] of our dear ancient Friend Wm. Penn, and we truly felt to bless God and take fresh courage. It seemed to our minds to [illegible] the tender love of our Heavenly Father [illegible] of us by you after these long years of silence may increasingly unite us together as in the one bundle of love, and baptize us into a deeper spiritual power, so that Israel's God may be magnified over [illegible] you and by us. We feel sensible that except the Lord build the city, that labor in vain that build [illegible] except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. [illegible] strange fire be substituted.

Shall any of us turn away from the ancient doctrine and testimonies of our early and faithful Friends, who handed them down [illegible] suffering and persecution? [illegible] to the light of Christ in our own [illegible] us, amid all the low tides and the low tides?

We are persuaded that you with us are engaged to stand upon Christ Jesus the Rock of ages. — And although at times [illegible] in view of the host against us, [illegible] who is the shadow of a great Rock in a weary land — no weapon that is formed against us shall prosper, and every tongue that shall

rise against us in judgment we shall be and
to condemn.'

This is the message of the servants of the Lord
and their religious business is [illegible],
signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting.

Jno. D. Foster

Clerk —

Copy —

From New England Yearly Meeting of Friends
held at Providence R. I. by adjournments from
the 10th of the 6th Mo. to the 12th of the same inclusive
1888 — To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Men
and Women Friends.

Dear Friends:

In this our
annual assembly we are again comforted
by Epistles from other Yearly Meetings
and while desirous that this mode of ex-
[illegible] to dignify
-ate into formality, with thankfulness
we acknowledge your acceptable letter to
us, and desire to encourage you to hold the
beginning of your confidence stedfast unto
the end; and to continue to press forward towards
the mark for the power of the high calling of God
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are renewedly persuaded that
there is no new way to attain unto the rest
which is prepared for the people of God.

The Great Captain of our salvation was
made perfect through suffering, and it is enough
for the disciple to be as his Master, and the
Servant as his Lord.

[illegible]
consideration of our own short-comings
and unfaithfulness, [illegible]

way than to turn with deep and unfeigned
[illegible] heart unto the Lord who will have
mercy, and unto our God, for He will abundantly
pardon. The testimonies of truth as
promulgated by all faithful friends from
the rise of this society, are we are renewedly
[illegible]
[illegible] mind. To get low
and humble is what we all need, and we do
believe that the trials permitted to come upon
us as a people [illegible] have, and we hope will
have a tendency to humble us, and bring us nearer
to the Fountain of Light & Life. Whatever
affliction may [illegible] for our [illegible] and
furtherance in the truth, and then He would
[illegible] and
cause us to [illegible] as in ancient Seasons.
We [illegible] dear friends who
have been brought into suffering through the drouth.
Let them remember that they are under
the Lords immediate notice, for the Saviour
said "not a sparrow falleth to the ground" He heareth
the young ravens when they cry. "He cannot
[illegible] and search out His ways, [illegible]
[illegible] out, but we can rest in this, that
He is underneath and doeth all things well.
The Psalmist David said "I have been young,
and now am old, yet have I not seen the right-
=eous forsaken nor his seed begging bread".
Tho' the Prophet Habakkuk, "although
the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit
be in the vine, the labour of the olive shall fail
and the fields shall yield no meat; the flocks
shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be
no herd in the stalls; yet I will rejoice in the
Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.
Do we consider what dependant creatures
have been brought into suffering through the drouth.
Let them remember that they are under
the Lords immediate notice, for the Saviour
said "not a sparrow falleth to the ground" He heareth
the young ravens when they cry." He cannot
[illegible] and search out His ways, [illegible]
[illegible] out, but we can rest in this, that
He is underneath and doeth all things well.
The Psalmist David said "I have been young,
and now am old, yet have I not seen the right-
=eous forsaken nor his seed begging bread".
Tho' the Prophet Habakkuk, "although
the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit
be in the vine, the labour of the olive shall fail
and the fields shall yield no meat; the flocks
shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be
no herd in the stalls; yet I will rejoice in the
Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.
Do we consider what dependant creatures

we are, for in Him we live and move, and
have our being; that it is His care and mercy
that surrounds us every hour of our lives? If this
should be withdrawn we fall to our
graves, and to the accusing elements, and
dust we should soon return. Again, we must
rest in the protection of this Almighty
Being whose presence fills the universe,
and whose care extends to the smallest pro-
duct of creation. So let us make it
and our drink to know His will and do it,
and flee to Him for refuge in the day of
trouble and be patient under all cir-
cumstances; for the time is short, and
we shall soon be called hence to be seen of
men no more. While in some not of our
name we see recognized the importance of the fruits
of holiness; in many there is being manifested with
regard unto it a measure of the
enjoyment, and of due formality; and even
many a miserable fiend has fallen into these
paths against which our prophet warns.

Given to worship, to ordinances and to
our Christian worship, and Knights in living mi-
sery; but to cleave to Christ, to love, to
work without fear. Let us then while
we gladly acknowledge the privileges and advantages
of the gospel, and
to encourage all dear young people who
are constrained to enter the kingdom under dou
bt, And let us not cast away our confidence
which hath great recompence of reward, but
keep a single eye to the glory of God in our
ways, and then, if we find ourselves
hairs dreadful, we shall feel that the foundation
of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord
knoweth them that are His. If we continue in

the company of some dear friends from Ohio
who have been here preaching amongst us,
and we do feel it to be an evidence that
we are not forsaken.

Signed in behalf and on behalf of the
Meeting —

[illegible]

[illegible] New England [illegible] Yearly [illegible]
held at [illegible]
Public Worship for Yearly on 1st day the 6th of
6th month 1880 and are Seemed acceptably the
1st time with those [illegible] Meeting.

[illegible]
were received from the Island called Sandwich
Quarterly Meeting by which it appears that the
following named Friends have been appointed
representatives to this Meeting, Viz from Rhode
Island George Foster, Thomas Rose, Anne Potter,
N. J. Barney Foster and George L. Foster, from Sand-
wich Isaac Hoke and Eli S. Hilton, whose Cre-
dentials were called for and
considered therein.

We have at this time the
[illegible] Friends from Ohio, Western Yearly
and Kansas Yearly Meetings, which have been
read to our Comfort and Encouragement,
And we have received Epistles directed with
tend to unite and strengthen the several Yearly
Meetings thus Engaged, And we observing
[illegible]
Friends Minute to have an Evening
appointed for a Meeting, received it was opened
Thereto and in the Service of Considering the
subject and may Should clearly open it Before
and a letter to Canada Yearly Meeting.

William [illegible] Anna Grove
Foster & N. Barney Foster are appointed to
[illegible]

to the Queries and Grievances sitting this afternoon.

To appoint Trustees, Doctor Physicks, Visitors and Overseers of Schools to examine and settle the Accounts of the Treasurer and to propose a Friend for Treasurer of this Quarterly Meeting for the ensuing Year, and report at a future Sitting of this Quarterly Meeting.

The Queries, Advices and Epistle of Correspondence are read, and after Solemn Silence the Clerk is directed to read the Queries and Answers at the opening of the Sitting this afternoon.

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon near the hour adjourned to Friends again assembled.

The names of the Representatives being called they are all present and answered.

George Foster on behalf of the Representatives reported that they had met and united in appointing John P. Foster for Clerk and Jesse Gidley for Assistant Clerk, the appointments being separately considered were united with and they are appointed.

The Treasurer of Society, was directed by the reading of the Queries and Answers and a Quarterly Meeting having been held for the Committee appointed for that purpose it was also read and directed to be filed.

During the consideration of our Condition as respects the Answers, Friends were introduced into a concern for the Continuance

Quarterly Meeting of all its testimonies, and Friends
urged to cast their care upon the Lord & the clearness
to the renewed manifestations of his visitation in their
hearts. The meeting was favored after some time in
the meeting under an humbling sense of our
holiness and shortcomings, and deeply
[illegible]
Spirit's work in the heart, and give diligence to
discouragement, but live in the love and fear
of God.

The minutes of the Quarterly
Meeting having been read & approved, the
[illegible]
are continued under appointment to the
Executive Committee, having the matter of the Boarding
School under their care.

The Project of assisting
Friends in Kansas who have a small indebtedness
incurred by the establishment of a Friends
Boarding School, has been brought before this meeting
at this time by the following report ordered to be submitted
[illegible]
to this Meeting. And our Treasurer is directed to pay
to the Treasurer of the Quarterly Meeting the amount
named in the report; and Samuel and Peter Wilson
[illegible]

To the Yearly Meeting

A Committee appointed by the Meeting of
Ministers to consider the situation of Friends in
Spring River Meeting in Kansas who are responsible
for an indebtedness incurred by the establishment
of a Friends Boarding School at that place. Report as in-
[illegible]

Some of the Friends of Spring River Meeting
[illegible] granted satisfactory Evidence [illegible]
Encouraged the Establishment [illegible]
and day School at that [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] for the accomplishment of this desirable object, and that
[illegible]
Meeting and Yat Meeting [illegible] donation of $300,-
for the [illegible]
deferred to amount to $1,100, including the amt
due to Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting.
[illegible]
[illegible] of Two hundred Dollars, if we
[illegible] with this assistance it is confidently hoped
they will be enabled to discharge the obligations
under which they labor.

On behalf of the Committee
J. Bowden Foster

Westerly 6th Mo. 17. 1889

Adjourned to the 3d hour 3d Day afternoon
5th.

Third day afternoon the 18th Friends
met pursuant to adjournment.
[illegible]
[illegible]

by the Committee appointed for that purpose, and the same having been read at this time were approved by the meeting.

On motion the Clerk is directed to transcribe, sign on behalf of this meeting, and [illegible]

and for other purposes have made the following report, viz

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the Treasurers account and for other purposes, have attended to that service, and find the same correct, [illegible] and therefore have filed

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

On behalf of the Committee

Oct. 27th 1890 Amos O. Foster

Penny is appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the ensuing year.

The Clerk is directed to make all necessary extracts from the minutes of this meeting and sign them on its behalf.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Extracts of the answers to the queries

1889

Ans. 1st Select Meetings for discipline and worship have been held, except a few small meetings which are not regularly kept up owing to the limited number of members residing near the place of meeting. Those for worship are well attended; mid-week meetings and meetings for discipline not so well attended. The monthly meetings, in conducting business, have been held except a few instances of sickness.

Ans. 2d Love and unity are maintained and direction is extended agreeably to the rules as appears.

Ans. 3d Friends are careful and appear desirous to bring up those under their direction in plainness of speech, behaviour and apparel and restrain them from pernicious reading and company and other practices, and to be more exemplary themselves as necessary. We believe the Holy Scriptures are frequently read in Friends families.

Ans. 4th Friends avoid the use of spirituous liquors except for medicine - the nuisance of taverns and public places is mostly avoided in the cities, but too frequent.

Ans. 5th When any commotions have appeared to require assistance, their necessities have been relieved. Friendly [illegible] from committees [illegible].

Ans. 7th We believe Friends are concerned that all [illegible] in the Society may be conformable to our principles.

Ans. 7th. Friends ~~position~~ [illegible] to be careful in their respects as far as appears.

Ans. 8th. Friends appear to be careful in these respects as far as appears.

Ans. 9th Friends have their births, marriages, deaths and burials recorded, as directed. Friends have removed from or come amongst us without certificates with one exception - although some have removed to localities where there are no Friends meetings.

Ans. 10th Some care is taken to deal with offenders in the spirit of meekness and wisdom, without partiality, undue precipitancy, delay and proceed therein when it appears necessary according to discipline.

Copy

From the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Westerly, R.I. from the 10th of the 7th mo. to the 18th of the same inclusive 1889

To Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends

We take in addressing you at this time in a measure of spiritual life and virtue, and a true fellowship [illegible] and as we have assembled annually before us, we have been made glad in listening to your Epistle of last year, and in a sweet and reserved feeling of that fellowship, communion and [illegible] do we again salute you. Where there is so much disposition to settle down in a spirit of worldliness, and a tendency towards [illegible] we truly have need to encourage one another [illegible]

And as we are reverently persuaded that it was the
[illegible] from the formal holiness of their day into a
more spiritual and living religion - from mere time, which
could only satisfy, to [illegible] - communion with Jehovah by his high [illegible]
[illegible], [illegible] - [illegible] fast in the heart, even as the Lord
had made us free, and yet not to be entangled
[illegible] from which they were brought out with a high
hand, and with an outstretched arm. Jesus Christ
is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. We
[illegible] and do [illegible] but the faith of our Lord
[illegible] [illegible] we are not led to discard any of the testimonies supposed
to be maintained by our Faith Friends. It is not the
Spirit of Truth, but an unwillingness to bear the
Cross that causes so many among us to conform to
the vain fashions and customs of the world.
Our blessed Lord said to his disciples, "If ye were of
the world, ye would love your own: but because ye are not of the world,
but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."
The Christian life requires the [illegible] - [illegible]
[illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible]. We [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
of our weakness, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
for the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] composed of many solid consistent Friends.

The young and inexperienced are sometimes kept
from declining by the influence of such friends
until they shall see for themselves the necessity of
submitting to the crucifying of the Cross of Christ
Yet we are encouraged to believe that a succession
of standard-bearers will be found even among us
[illegible] a full and [illegible] surrender of heart [illegible] the
part of our dear young people unto the work of God
when the [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] and [illegible]

dividing asunder soul and spirit, and of the joints and
marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of
the heart. It is time thankfully to acknowledge
that our several sittings have of late been favored with
the Divine presence, encouraging us to depend on the
Lord entirely forgetting any thing who feedeth the sparrows and
[illegible]
in the Lord more [illegible] in ourselves, but
look to Emmanuel God with us. The more this becomes
the case the greater our safety — self is thus laid low, and
we are brought into the state of [illegible] and dependance
ance in which our will is entirely given up and the
Lord's will becomes our will, and our highest pleas-
ure. Then it is that we may boldly say the Lord is
my helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto
me. [illegible]
falling, and to present you faultless before the presence
of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our
Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power
both now and ever. Amen

Signed by direction and on behalf of the
Meeting

Copy.

From Yearly Meeting of Friends.
held at Westerly R.I. by adjournments from the
16th of the 6 Mo. to the 18th of the same inclusive, 1889.

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Men and
Women Friends.

Dear Friends:—

During the several
sittings of our Yearly Session, [illegible]
hearts for all the blessings extended to us, by

the hand of Providence, sensibly we are
[illegible] and some
some what cast down by noting the absence
some of the aged ones who have been valiant
[illegible] (Let's pray,) that the overshadowing
arms of the Lord are underneath to uphold us,
and under a solemn covering of the Spirit
[illegible] we [illegible]
in believing that the promises of Christ
are Yea and Amen forever, and that the blessing
are ever extended to the two or three that are
gathered together in His name, and He is one
to whom we can always flee for comfort and
[illegible]
in every needful time. Though our numbers, this
year, were less than in former years, yet our
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Yearly meetings with which we correspond, were mercifully
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
the salutation, "And the Spirit and the Bride
say, Come, And let him that heareth, say,
Come, And let him that is athirst come, and
Whosoever will, let him take of the water of
life freely." O, may such as these ever be willing
like Moses, to choose rather to suffer affliction
with the children of Israel than to enjoy the
pleasures of sin for a season in the [illegible]
world; and may they always be ready and willing
to go up into the mountains of the Lord and
get that heavenly wisdom whereby they will be
[illegible]

[illegible] heritage, we are ready to exclaim, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few;" may we therefore [illegible] the Lord of the harvest [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] and the faithful [illegible] the declaring of unto [illegible] fast; [illegible] and the shield reap, if we faint not, and of [illegible] [illegible] I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. May there be more witness for us, ever called to use the language. "The harvest is past. The summer is ended and we are not saved," but that all of every state and condition may be made willing, while time and opportunity last, to put off the old man with his deeds and be faithful to the leadings of the Holy Spirit made manifest in the heart, that will never mislead those that walk thereby, and in the end they will receive a crown of life that is promised to all that are faithful unto death.

Dear Friends, in the love of the Gospel we bid you fare well.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting

Copy.

From the England Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Westby 1st. to 6th mo. inclusive 1889.

To Kansas Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends.—

Dear Friends:—

It is our belief and [illegible] that we [illegible] again at this time, and to express the desire we feel that you may continue faithful well doing. The promise is to them that endure to the end, and it is to those who run well for a season. So dear friends let us endeavor to run with patience the race that is set before us, looking for help [illegible] for he is able to save, even to the uttermost, those who come unto us. And while thus endeavoring to incite you to faithfulness, we are not unmindful of our own [illegible] We feel that [illegible] not forsaken — that Israel's God is yet mindful of us, and that his presence has been felt amongst us at this time, for which, and every other blessing received from his bountiful hand, we desire to be truly grateful.

Your acceptable epistle of 11th mo last and those from the Yearly Meetings with which we correspond were received and read, and we can say we feel thankful for the Christian love, shown and the interest manifested in them for our [illegible] and [illegible] truth. And our desire is, that these words of

[illegible] Lord upon [illegible] ground.

Our Society has ever professed an profession as friends to [illegible] faithfully upheld the standard of our testimonies. Not how necessary it is that we should not [illegible] be shaken through any [illegible] desire of ease in ourselves, but that all of us in our several places in Society and in the world, should [illegible] faith in our profession by a steadfast maintenance of our principles, acknowledging Christ before men that [illegible] before men for his sake. - Knowing that the cross must be borne if he would inherit the crown. He [illegible] daily cross and follow Him.

Two of Your members have been very concerned to be present and encouraging to us.

In the love of the Gospel we bid you farewell, and remain Your friends.

Signed by direction and on behalf of the meeting.

Copy.

To Western Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Dear Friends.

[illegible] of again meeting [illegible] which annually comes before us, and while in [illegible] of our members in the truth, we are not unmindful of our dear friends of other Yearly

Nothing [illegible] can accomplish [illegible] our minds with the mere [illegible] with you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

the inward motion. The minds of those b...
in years are often more susceptible of the
influence of Divine love, grace more fully
advanced in life; and as they grow in grace
and in the saving knowledge of ...
Christ, will they become more fit for the right
hand fellowship and ... that they may be
... and we pray you be fit vessels, done
... of the Lord, of the times. ... the
the Captain of your Salvation ... faith
... you main in the field.
With the salutation of love we bid you
farewell.
Signed by direction and on behalf
of the Meeting.

Copy

To Canada Yearly Meeting of ... and
... Islands.

Dear Friends

... reading of this Epistle, of the Christian
... Yearly Meetings, on this continent
with which we correspond, your kind condition
has been brought ... we ...
have felt our hearts drawn in ... love
... to you, for the ... of
faith, who dwell the unfolding of those
ancient testimonies, delivered to your fore fathers
in the truth, and for which they ... much,
and a desire has arisen in our
hearts to salute you, and send you a message
of ... and ...

situation — knowing from personal experience what it is to suffer from the [illegible] of false brethren.

With grateful hearts do we acknowledge that your Heavenly Father is still watching over us, and drawing us together and to himself by the drawing cords of his love, and the influence of the Holy Spirit, we are freely invited, that by and through Christ Jesus our glorified and risen Redeemer, by whom we have access to the [illegible] to be in the bond of peace, and there is more to be heard from us, but by and through the name and power of Jesus. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ the chief corner stone.

[illegible] the acceptable company of [illegible] our Yearly meetings and we feel encouraged in their [illegible] and [illegible] made not only [illegible] which we are in correspondence.

We are thus renewedly led to put our implicit trust in Him, who is able to carry us safely through these fiery trials in which we are to be proved and encourage us and the beginning of a [illegible] and [illegible] that is [illegible] to live up to the testimony in its simplicity as promulgated by the early Friends shall be our [illegible] and sisters [illegible] and all we are brethren. O. May that harmony, that

heavenly harmony, again reiterate, that nice
[illegible] the Holy [illegible] is [illegible] for the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the
Writer of the Psalmist true when he says?
Behold how good, and how pleasant it is for
brethren to dwell together in unity.
It is like the precious ointment upon the
the head that ran down upon the beard, even
Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of
his garments.

With tender sympathy for you in your
tried situation, we command you and your peace
to God, who is able in his infinite wisdom to
[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible], [illegible] the
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible], that
[illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] in Philadelphia, [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible].

I know thy works, behold, I have set
before thee an open door, and no man can shut
it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast
kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Signed, on behalf, and by direction of
the Ireland Yearly Meetings of men and
Women Friends held at Westbury Long Island
by adjournments from the 15th of 6mo. to the
18th of the same inclusive 1889.